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system, hand held terminal device, information recording medium,
and information processing method

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SIR:

CERTIFIED TRANSLATION

I, Kenichi AIHARA, am an official translator of the Japanese language into the English Language and I hereby certify that the attached comprises an accurate translation into English of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-333120, filed on October 31, 2000.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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[Title of the Invention] Watch information content distribution processing system, Information distribution apparatus, Hand held terminal device, Information recording medium, and Information processing method

[Claims]

[Claim 1] A watch information content distribution processing system of distributing watch information content concerning a variety of clocks, and processing information electronically, characterized in that said system comprises:

an information distribution apparatus that distributes prepared watch information contents concerning said variety of clocks as data to an information user's hand held terminal device; and

a plurality of hand held terminal devices that acquires and processes the watch information contents distributed as data by means of the information distribution apparatus,

wherein a software watch is displayed as a video image based on the watch information contents by the hand held terminal device to clock a time.

[Claim 2] The watch information content distribution processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information distribution apparatus comprises:

a data insert section that constructs the watch information contents in a group of data rows, thereby inserting the contents into a carrier signal; and

a transmission section that transmits the carrier signal whose the data rows are constructed and inserted by the data insert section to the information user's hand held terminal device.

[Claim 3] The watch information content distribution processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the watch information contents are distributed as data to the hand held terminal device by using existing broadcast infrastructure and/or communication infrastructure.

[Claim 4] The watch information content distribution processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the watch information contents contain at least video image information on a clock character board and time display software.

[Claim 5] The watch information content distribution processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hand held terminal device comprises:

- an operating section operated to input operational information concerning the watch information contents;

- a receiving section that receives the watch information contents;

- a nonvolatile storage device that stores the watch information contents received by the receiving section; and

- a control unit that reads out the watch information contents from the storage device according to the operational information caused by the operating section, and performs information processing on the watch information contents, thereby displaying and controlling a video image.

[Claim 6] The watch information content distribution processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hand held terminal device is a hand held telephone set that comprises:

- a tuner that receives watch information contents from a broadcast station;

a nonvolatile storage device that stores electronic information contents received by the tuner;

a data processing section that reads out and processes the electronic information contents stored in the storage device; and

a hand held telephone function controlled by the data processing section.

[Claim 7] The watch information content distribution processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the watch information contents are recorded in an information recording medium and provided to an information user; and

wherein the information user side mounts the information recording medium on the hand held terminal device, and use the medium.

[Claim 8] The watch information content distribution processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the watch information contents are associated with time information that has been already managed by the hand held terminal device.

[Claim 9] The watch information content distribution processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein time information that is a reference is distributed as data from the information provider to the information user's hand held terminal device; and

wherein the information user side corrects watch information managed by the hand held terminal device based on the time information defined as a reference.

[Claim 10] The watch information content distribution processing

system as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in distribution of the time information, associated additional information that is arbitrary advertisement information or that is watch information contents to be distributed as data or to be on sale is distributed at the same time; and

wherein the associated additional information is displayed at a portion of a clock screen managed by the hand held terminal device.

[Claim 11] The watch information content distribution processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the watch information contents are distributed everyday from an information provider to the information user's hand held terminal device by using the broadcast infrastructure; and

wherein a design on the clock screen according to the software watch in the hand held terminal device is automatically updated everyday.

[Claim 12] The watch information content distribution processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a character board background video image adapted to the corresponding season and/or the corresponding time interval is automatically displayed by watch information incorporated in the hand held terminal device.

[Claim 13] The watch information content distribution processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hand held terminal device of foldable type is previously prepared, and an opening angle of the hand held terminal device having displayed thereon a clock screen according to the software watch is arbitrarily adjusted so as to be used as a placement clock.

[Claim 14] The watch information content distribution processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein short-distance wireless

communication is made between the two hand held terminal devices, thereby obtaining time synchronization.

[Claim 15] An information distribution apparatus for distributing watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks as data to an information user, characterized in that the apparatus comprises:

a data insert section that constructs the watch information contents in a group of data rows, thereby inserting the contents into a carrier signal; and

a transmission section that transmits the carrier signal whose the data rows are constructed and inserted by the data insert section to the information user's hand held terminal device.

[Claim 16] The information distribution device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the data rows are distributed by using the existing broadcast infrastructure and communication infrastructure.

[Claim 17] The information distribution device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the data rows are transmitted and multiplied in a vertical blanking period of a television broadcast signal employed by the broadcast infrastructure.

[Claim 18] A hand held terminal device for acquiring and processing watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks, characterized in that the watch information contents are received and stored, the watch information contents are read out in asynchronous manner according to the information user's information operation, and a software watch is displayed as a video image based on at least the watch information contents.

[Claim 19] The hand held terminal device as claimed in claim 18, wherein clock screen information configuring a plurality of the software watches is stored.

[Claim 20] The hand held terminal device as claimed in claim 18, the device comprising:

an operating section operated to input operational information concerning the watch information contents;

a receiving section that receives the watch information contents;

a nonvolatile storage device that stores the watch information contents received by the receiving section; and

a control unit that reads out the watch information contents from the storage device according to the operational information caused by the operating section, and performs information processing on the watch information contents, thereby displaying and controlling a video image.

[Claim 21] The hand held terminal device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the control unit displays and controls a video image concerning the software watch that constitutes a three-dimensional video image having the watch information contents processed therein.

[Claim 22] The hand held terminal device as claimed in claim 20, wherein a communication modem is connected to the control unit so as to receive the watch information contents distributed by using the existing communication infrastructure.

[Claim 23] The hand held terminal device as claimed in claim 18,

wherein the hand held terminal device is a hand held telephone set that comprises:

- a tuner that receives the watch information contents from a broadcast station;

- a nonvolatile storage device that stores electronic information contents received by the tuner;

- a data processing section that reads out and processes the electronic information contents stored in the storage device; and

- a hand held telephone function controlled by the data processing section.

[Claim 24] The hand held terminal device as claimed in claim 18, wherein, in the case where an information recording medium having the watch information contents recorded therein in advance is provided to the information user, the information user side mounts the information recording medium, and uses the watch information contents.

[Claim 25] An information recording medium, characterized in that watch information contents containing video image information on plural types of clock character boards and time display software and control procedures for displaying a software watch as a video image based on the watch information contents and clocking a time are described therein.

[Claim 26] An information processing method for electronically processing watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks, characterized in that an information provider side prepares the watch information contents concerning the variety of clocks, and distributes the watch information contents as data to an information user's hand held

terminal device; and

that the information user displays a software watch as a video image based on the watch information contents distributed as data, and clocks a time by means of the software watch.

[Claim 27] The information processing method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the information user side acquires the watch information contents distributed as data, and creates a software watch based the acquired watch information contents.

[Claim 28] The information processing method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the watch information contents are distributed to the hand held terminal device by using the existing broadcast infrastructure and/or communication infrastructure.

[Claim 29] The information processing method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the watch information contents are recorded in an information recording medium, and is provided to an information user; and

wherein the information user side mounts the information recording medium to the hand held terminal device, and uses the medium.

[Claim 30] The information processing method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the information recording medium is provided by using the existing sales infrastructure.

[Claim 31] The information processing method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the watch information contents are associated with the time information already managed by the hand held terminal device.

[Claim 32] The information processing method as claimed in claim 26, wherein time information that is a reference is distributed as data from the information provider to the information user's hand held terminal device; and

wherein the information user side corrects the watch information managed by the hand held terminal device based on the time information defined as a reference.

[Claim 33] The information processing method as claimed in claim 32, wherein, in distributing the time information, associated additional information that is arbitrary advertisement information or that is watch information contents to be distributed as data or to be on sales is distributed at the same time; and

wherein the associated additional information is displayed at a portion of a clock screen managed by the hand held terminal device.

[Claim 34] The information processing method as claimed in claim 26, wherein clock screen information configuring a plurality of software watches is stored in the hand held terminal device; and

wherein the clock screen information is selected to display an arbitrary software watch as a video image and to clock a time.

[Claim 35] The information processing method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the watch information contents are distributed everyday from an information provider to the information user's hand held terminal device by using the broadcast infrastructure; and

wherein a design on the clock screen according to the software

watch in the hand held terminal device is automatically updated everyday.

[Claim 36] The information processing method as claimed in claim 26, wherein a character board background video image adapted to the corresponding season and/or the corresponding time interval is automatically displayed by watch information incorporated in the hand held terminal device.

[Claim 37] The information processing method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the hand held terminal device of foldable type is previously prepared, and an opening angle of the hand held terminal device having displayed thereon a clock screen according to the software watch is arbitrarily adjusted so as to be used as a placement clock.

[Claim 38] The information processing method as claimed in claim 26, wherein short-distance wireless communication is made between the two hand held terminals, thereby obtaining time synchronization.

[Detailed description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to a watch information content distribution processing system, an information distribution apparatus, a hand held terminal device, an information recording medium, and an information processing method that are suitably applied to a software watch embodied by displaying as image a wristwatch, a brand watch, or fashion watch of design specific to an owner.

[0002]

[Prior Art]

Conventionally, many people use a wristwatch wearing one's wrist as means for watch a time. In such a circumstance, an increased number of people have recently looked at a hand held telephone set for a time. The wristwatch is worn directly to a wrist, so that there are many cases in which the watch is removed from the wrist on a manual work. In addition, there are many cases in which a leather belt is replaced with a metallic belt for use in the summer time.

[0003]

In recent years, there has been mainly used a quartz type watch, and a time display error is becoming small. Further, a wristwatch having its superior design properties called a brand watch or a fashion watch is popular, and there is a tendency that one person has a plurality of wristwatches. The owner of watches uses a plurality of wristwatches according to its preference.

[0004]

[Problems to be solved by the Invention]

In the meantime, the following problems occur according to the wristwatch and the like of a conventional system.

<1> There is a fear that a wristwatch blocks manual work or is damaged because it is directly wound around one's wrist.

<2> One feels discomfort in the summertime because a belt section becomes dirt by one's sweat.

<3> Since a quartz type watch is mainly used, although an error becomes small, such the error is accumulated for a long period of time, and must be manually corrected periodically.

<4> Although there is a tendency that one owns a plurality of wristwatches having its superior design properties such as a brand watch or

a fashion watch, an inconvenience such that one must own and manage a plurality of wristwatches physically may be caused because the wristwatches are hardware.

<5> There is an inconvenience that, if one attempts to use a plurality of these wristwatches according to its preference, one must replace them every time.

<6> Further, if one attempts to own a plurality of wristwatches, the cost is increased.

<7> Furthermore, although only one required clock can be used for a user at the same time, if one attempts to own a plurality of wristwatches, all the wristwatches must contain independent batteries, which is not suitable in global environment from the viewpoint of wasteful battery consumption.

[0005]

The present invention has been made in order to solve the foregoing conventional problems and it is an object of the present invention to provide a watch information content distribution processing system, an information distribution apparatus, a hand held terminal device, an information recording medium, and an information processing method such that a plurality of software watches with different design properties can be configured according to the preference of the information user, and physical replacement of real wristwatches etc. like the conventional system can be avoided if these software watches are replaced.

[0006]

[Means for solving the Problems]

In order to solve the foregoing problems, there is provided a watch information content distribution processing system of distributing watch information content concerning a variety of clocks, and processing

information electronically, characterized in that said system comprises an information distribution apparatus that distributes prepared watch information contents concerning said a variety of clocks as data to an information user's hand held terminal device, and a plurality of hand held terminal devices that acquires and processes watch information contents distributed as data by means of the information distribution apparatus, wherein a software watch is displayed as a video image based on the watch information contents by the hand held terminal device to clock a time.

[0007]

According to the watch information content distribution processing system of the present invention, in the case where watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks are distributed and electronically processed, the watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks that has been created in advance are distributed as data from an information distribution apparatus to an information user's hand held terminal device. In the hand held terminal device, the time information contents distributed as data is acquired, a software watch is displayed as a video image based on the watch information contents, and a time is clocked.

[0008]

Therefore, a plurality of software watches with different designs according to the preference of the information user can be configured. Moreover, in the case where one uses these software watches separately, one can eliminate physical replacement of real wristwatches etc. like the conventional system or does not wear a real wristwatch around one's wrist directly unlike the conventional system, so that the wristwatch does not block manual work and is not damaged, or one does not feel discomfort caused by one's sweat.

[0009]

An information distribution apparatus according to the present invention for distributing watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks as data to an information user is characterized in that the apparatus comprises a data insert section that constructs the watch information contents in a group of data rows, thereby inserting the contents into a carrier signal, and a transmission section that transmits the carrier signal whose the data rows are constructed and inserted by the data insert section to the information user's hand held terminal device.

[0010]

According to an information distribution apparatus of the present invention, for example, in the case where time information contents concerning a variety of clocks are distributed as data by using an existing broadcast infrastructure, watch information contents are constructed in a group of data rows, and is inserted into a carrier signal by means of the data insert section. The watch information contents are multiplied and transmitted during a vertical blanking period of a television broadcast signal (carrier signal) employed in a broadcast infrastructure. The television broadcast signal whose data rows are constructed and inserted by the data insert section is transmitted from the transmission section to the user's hand held terminal device all at once.

[0011]

Thus, in the information user's hand held terminal device, a group of data rows is received in batch in a predetermined period, and such group can be stored in batch in a storage device. In this manner, after receiving the watch information contents, the information user can configure a software watch such as a brand watch or a fashion watch by freely reading out the watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks by a hand

held terminal device in unreal time (asynchronous) manner.

[0012]

The hand held terminal device according to the present invention for acquiring and processing watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks is characterized in that the watch information contents are received and stored, the watch information contents are read out in asynchronous manner according to the information user's information operation, and a software watch is displayed as a video image based on at least the watch information contents.

[0013]

In the hand held terminal device according to the present invention, in the case where watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks are acquired and processed, for example, if these watch information contents are distributed as data by using the existing broadcast infrastructure, the watch information contents are received and stored in the hand held terminal device, watch information contents are read out in an asynchronous manner according to information operation of the information user, and at least software watch is displayed as a video image based on the watch information contents.

[0014]

Therefore, after receiving the watch information contents, the information user side can configure a software watch such as a brand watch or a fashion watch by freely combining watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks in an unreal time (asynchronous) manner. Moreover, the information user can select one software watch from among many types thereof by means of simple information operation, so that the user can use a preferable software watch according to the time, the place and the occasion, and can enjoy the software watch freely according to the

preference.

[0015]

The information recording medium according to the present invention is characterized in that watch information contents containing video image information on plural types of clock character boards and time display software and control procedures for displaying a software watch as a video image based on the watch information contents and clocking a time are described therein.

[0016]

According to the information recording medium of the present invention, the watch information contents and the control procedures can be sold by using the existing sales infrastructure as package media. Moreover, an information recording medium is mounted on a hand held terminal device on the information user side, and a software watch such as a brand watch or a fashion watch can be constructed by freely combining the watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks in an unreal time (asynchronous) manner.

[0017]

The information processing method according to the present invention for electronically processing watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks, is characterized in that an information provider side prepares the watch information contents concerning the variety of clocks, and distributes the watch information contents as data to an information user's hand held terminal device, and that the information user displays a software watch as a video image based on the watch information contents distributed as data, and clocks a time by means of the software watch.

[0018]

In the information processing method according to the present invention, when watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks are processed, a plurality of software watches with different designs can be used according to the preference of the information user. Moreover, in the case where one uses a software watch, one can eliminate physical replacement of real watches or the like in the conventional system or does not wear the real watch directly around one's wrist as compared with the conventional system, so that the wristwatch does not block manual work, is not damaged, or does not feel discomfort caused by sweat.

[0019]

[Embodiments of the Invention]

Next, the following describes one preferred embodiment of a watch information content distribution processing system, an information distribution apparatus, an information distribution system, a hand held terminal device, an information recording medium, and an information processing method, respectively, according to the invention with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0020]

(1) Embodiment

FIG. 1 is a block diagram depicting a configuration of a watch information content distribution processing system 100 according to an embodiment of the present invention.

In the embodiment, a plurality of hand held terminal devices for acquiring and processing watch information contents to be distributed as data is provided, a software watch is displayed as a video image based on watch information contents by means of the hand held terminal device, and a time is clocked so that a plurality of software watches with different designs can be configured according to the information user's preference,

and further, in the case where these software watches are separately used, physical replacement of real wristwatches like the conventional system can be eliminated.

[0021]

The watch information content distribution processing system 100 shown in FIG. 1 is directed to a system for distributing watch information contents D1 concerning a variety of clocks, thereby electronically processing it. In this system 100, an information distribution apparatus 19 is prepared so as to distribute the watch information contents D1 concerning a variety of clocks that has been created in advance to the information user's hand held terminal #i ($i = 1$ to n) as data. In this system 100, the existing broadcast infrastructure is used so as to distribute the watch information contents D1 to the hand held terminal device #i.

[0022]

With this broadcast infrastructure, an analog ground wave TV, a digital ground wave TV, a satellite information broadcast, an FM multiple broadcast, and a pager or the like may be provided. Of course, the watch information contents D1 may be distributed individually by using the communication infrastructure without being limited to the broadcast infrastructure. With a communication infrastructure, a fixed telephone network, a wireless communication infrastructure such as a hand held telephone network, or Internet may be provided. This is because a plurality of information users can use the system 100.

[0023]

In this system 100, plural types of analog watch information contents D1 or digital watch information contents D1 are distributed as data in batch. This is because the information user side freely selects

these watch information contents D1 so that the user specified software watch can be constructed. The watch information contents D1 contain at least video image information concerning clock character board (hereinafter, referred to as character board information D11) and time display software (hereinafter, referred to as time display data D12).

[0024]

On the other hand, the specific hand held terminal device #i is prepared by each information user so as to acquire and process the watch information contents D1 distributed as data by means of an information distribution apparatus 19. In the hand held terminal device #i, a software watch is displayed as a video image based on the watch information contents D1, and a time is clocked. In the hand held terminal device #i, there is used a tuner incorporated hand held telephone set or a hand held game device mounted, and then, hand held on the tuner device only when the watch information contents D1 are downloaded.

[0025]

In this system 100, the watch information contents D1 are recorded in an information recording medium (not shown), and is provided to an information user without being limited to data distribution caused by a broadcast or communication infrastructure so that the information user side may use this information recording medium to be mounted on a hand held terminal device #i. The information recording medium is provided so as to be sold by using the existing sales infrastructure.

[0026]

In an information recording medium, watch information contents D1 containing plural types of video image information concerning clock character boards and time display software and control procedures for displaying the software watch based on the watch information contents D1

as a video image, and clocking a time or the like are described therein. A memory card, CR-ROM or the like is used for an information recording medium. In this system 100, plural types of analog watch information contents D1 and digital watch information contents D1 are distributed as data in one package.

[0027]

In this system 100, the watch information contents D1 are associated with time information that has been already managed by a hand held terminal device #i. This is because the software watch based on the watch information contents D1 is operated based on the time information managed by the hand held terminal device #i.

[0028]

In addition, time information that is a reference from an information provider to a side of an information user's hand held terminal device #i is distributed as data so that the information user side corrects watch information managed by the hand held terminal device #i based on time information defined as a reference. In this manner, a time error can be corrected automatically or by simple operation, and thus, an error of the software watch or the like may not be taken into consideration.

[0029]

In addition, in distributing time information, arbitrary advertisement information and associated additional information may be distributed at the same time so as to display the associated additional information at a part of a watch screen managed by a hand held terminal #i. The associated additional information is watch information contents D1 distributed as data or to be on sales. Thus, the associated additional information can be used as new advertisement media or information media.

[0030]

In this system 100, the watch information contents D1 may be distributed everyday by using a broadcast infrastructure from the information provider to the information user's hand held terminal device #i so as to automatically update a design on a watch screen according to a software watch everyday in the hand held terminal device #i. The information user can enjoy software watches with different designs everyday.

[0031]

In addition, a character board background video image adapted to the corresponding season may be automatically displayed based on watch information incorporated in the hand held terminal device #i. Of course, a character board background video image adapted to the corresponding time interval may be automatically displayed without being limited to the corresponding season. In this manner, a time sense or a season sense can be provided in an operation mode for automatically changing the watch information contents D1.

[0032]

Now, an example of information processing in the watch information content distribution processing system 100 will be described here. FIG. 2 is a flow chart showing a processing example of the watch information content distribution processing system 100.

[0033]

In the present embodiment, assume that, in the case where the watch information contents D1 concerning a variety of clocks are electronically processed, data is distributed to the information user's hand held terminal device by using the existing broadcast infrastructure or communication infrastructure.

[0034]

With this being presumed, the watch information contents D1 concerning a variety of clocks are created by the information provider side at the step A1 in the flow chart shown in FIG. 2. Here, plural types of analog or digital watch information contents D1 containing the character board information D11 and the time display data D12 are created by the information provider.

[0035]

In addition, at the step A2, these watch information contents D1 are distributed as data to the information user's hand held terminal device #i.

For data distribution, the information distribution apparatus 19 is prepared for a broadcast station in advance, and data is broadcast by using the information distribution apparatus 19 all at once. Of course, data may be distributed individually to the information user's hand held terminal device by using the existing communication infrastructure.

[0036]

The information user side acquires the watch information contents D1 distributed as data at the step B1. Here, at the information user, for example, a tuner device is prepared, a hand held terminal device is set to this tuner device, and the watch information contents D1 are downloaded. In addition, at the step B2, the information user displays a software watch as a video image based on the watch information contents D1.

[0037]

In displaying this video image, the information user may select either of analog type or digital type from among these watch information contents D1 so as to create a user specific software watch by freely combining items of character board information D11 with each other or the

like. This is because a software watch of arbitrary brand watch or fashion watch design is constructed. In addition, at the step B3, a time is clocked by a software watch based on the clock display data D12.

[0038]

In this way, in the watch information content distribution processing system 100 according to the embodiment of the present invention, in the case where the watch information contents D1 concerning a variety of clock are distributed and electronically processed, a plurality of software watches with different designs can be configured according to the preference of the information user.

[0039]

Moreover, in the case of using these software watches separately, physical replacement of real wristwatches etc. like the conventional system can be eliminated, and further, one does not wear such the real watch directly around one's wrist as compared with the conventional system, so that the software watch does not block manual work or is not damaged, and one does not feel discomfort caused by sweat.

[0040]

(2) First Example

FIG. 3 is an imaginary view showing a configuration of a software watch system 101 as a first example according to the present invention.

In this example, there is provided a plurality of hand held terminal devices 14 that acquires and processes the watch information contents D1 distributed as data so that the corresponding hand held terminal device 14 can display software watches based on the watch information contents D1 on a liquid crystal display screen thereof, and clock a time, a plurality of software watches with different designs can be

configured according to the preference of the information user, and in the case where these software watches are separately used, physical replacement of real wristwatches etc. like the conventional system can be eliminated.

[0041]

The software watch system 101 shown in FIG. 3 is directed to a system for electronically processing the watch information contents D1 concerning analog software watches or digital software watches, for example. In this system 101, the watch information contents D1 are distributed as data from a broadcast station 9 to a hand held terminal device 14 or the like.

[0042]

This hand held terminal device 14 is directed to a device for acquiring and processing the watch information contents D1 concerning a variety of clocks, receives and stores the watch information contents D1, reads out the watch information contents D1 in an asynchronous manner according to the information user's information operation, and displays a software watch as a video image based on at least the watch information contents D1.

[0043]

The watch information contents D1 are prepared by the information provider side, and contain clock frame information D10, character board information D11, clock display data D12, indicator shape information D13 of long, short, and second indicators, character board background information D14, which is relative to these software watches, and the like. The data processing is previously performed on the watch information contents D1 so that they can be displayed as an image. Time indicating sound such as bell sound of famous temple may be distributed as

audio information together.

[0044]

In this example, specific program information D2 is contained in the watch information contents D1 and they are distributed as data. This program information D2 is used for freely combining the clock frame information D10, the character board information D11, the clock display data D12, the indicator shape information D13 of long, short, and second indicators, the character board background information D14, and the like to create a user specific software watch.

[0045]

On the other hand, each information user side prepares a hand held terminal device 14 so that the watch information contents D1 + D2 or the like distributed as data from the broadcast station 9 are received by the tuner device 24, the received contents are downloaded on the hand held terminal device 14, and the downloaded contents are recorded and reproduced by the hand held terminal device 14. The hand held terminal device 14 displays the watch information contents D1 as a video image or outputs an indicating sound as an audio. This program information D2 consists of the control procedures when a variety of watch information contents D1 are read out on a liquid crystal display monitor (display section) 122 of the hand held terminal device 14 or when a user specific software watch is created.

[0046]

In this example, there are provided a tuner device 24 with a charging function shown in FIG. 3 and a specific hand held terminal device 14 that is removably mounted on this tuner device 24 so as to process the watch information contents D1 from the broadcast station 9 and game data from a memory card 202. One can enjoy application such as game any

time and anywhere. This system 101 receives and stores the watch information contents D1 in the tuner device 24.

[0047]

The watch information contents D1 are provided to an information user by using the existing sales infrastructure in the form of a memory card 202 shown as an example of an information recording medium without being limited to data distribution by using broadcast infrastructure or communication infrastructure. The watch information contents D1 concerning software watches are recorded in the memory card 202, and the memory card 202 is mounted on the hand held terminal device 14, and is used.

[0048]

A general-purpose serial interface (wired or wireless) such as USB, IEEE 1394 or IrDA is used for download from this tuner device 24 to the hand held terminal device 14, and in addition thereto, a dedicated interface and the like for direct connection of a wired or wireless connector may be provided at the tuner device 24. The data rows received by the tuner device 24 may be directly stored in a nonvolatile memory or hard disk unit incorporated in the hand held terminal device 14 without being stored in the device.

[0049]

A removable hand held terminal device 14 is connected to the tuner device 24 with the charging function shown in FIG. 3 so as to perform image processing on a group of data rows downloaded from this tuner device 24. This hand held terminal device 14 has an operating key 32 and a liquid crystal display monitor 122 that displays a video image operated by this operating key 32.

[0050]

This liquid crystal display monitor 122 has a color liquid crystal screen having 320 pixels x 240 pixels, for example. Charging is carried out for a secondary battery built-in this hand held terminal device 14 by inserting the device into a recess 18 of the tuner device 24 at the lower side of the hand held terminal device 14. A cross key 28 and a determination key 30 configuring the operating key 32 is provided at a casing 26 of the hand held terminal device 14 other than the above described liquid crystal display monitor 122. The determination key 30 functions as a power switch of the hand held terminal device 14 as described later.

[0051]

On the other hand, other than the above recess 18, at the casing 34 of the tuner device 24, there are provided: a power reception display lamp 36 that displays a charging state indicating charging, the end thereof, and the like; a signal reception display lamp 37 that displays that the hand held terminal device 14 is receiving data; a channel selection switch 38 for selecting a channel of a desired broadcast in data broadcasting.

[0052]

Further, a coaxial cable 40 is connected to this tuner device 24 with the charging function, and reaches a coaxial terminal 44. An antenna 42 is connected to this coaxial terminal 44 so as to receive the watch information contents D1 other than TV program broadcast caused by general grounding waves. In addition, an AC plug (alternating current plug) 48 connecting a power cable 46 is mounted on the tuner device 24. The AC plug 48 is connected to the power receptacle 50, and the AC power is supplied.

[0053]

Now, a configuration of an information distribution apparatus 19 and its peripheral system disposed in a broadcast station 9 will be

described here. The information distribution apparatus 19 shown in FIG. 4 is provided as an apparatus for distributing the watch information contents D1 supplied from the information provider as data other than a TV program broadcast caused by general ground waves.

[0054]

In this example, the watch information contents D1 relate to an analog software watch or digital software watch and contain the clock frame information D10, the character board information D11, the clock display data D12, indicator shape information D13 of long, short, and second indicators, the character board background information D14 or the like. The watch information contents D1 are obtained as data in advance so as to enable video image display. Time indicating sounds such as bell sound of a famous temple is obtained as audio information.

[0055]

These pieces of information are produced in advance according to watch information content production environment. These watch information contents D1 are provided to a data broadcast program organization division. In this division, the watch information contents D1 and program information D2 such as application are edited.

[0056]

In addition, a television program of general ground waves is produced by a television program production company as currently scheduled. The information distribution apparatus 19 has an inserter 92 that inserts the watch information contents, an insert section 29, a program organization processing section 93 and delivery interface 94 for general television programs, a transmission section 95, and an antenna 98.

[0057]

This inserter 92 is provided as an example of a data insert section

and constructs the watch information contents D1 such as graphic data or sound data and the program information D2 such as application as a group of data rows, and these watch information contents D1 are transferred to the insert section 29 to be inserted into a carrier signal.

[0058]

On the other hand, television program information and commercial video caused by a ground wave data broadcast are provided from the television program production company. These television program information and commercial video are delivered to the delivery interface 94 after being organized by the program organization processing section 93 of the information distribution apparatus 19. In the delivery interface 94, the program organized television program information and commercial video are produced as a TV broadcast signal caused by the ground wave data broadcast after being converted into a predetermined broadcast format.

[0059]

The insert section 29 is connected to an output stage of this delivery interface 94, and a transmission section 95 are connected to a rear stage of the interface so that the watch information contents D1 concerning software watches or the like are multiplied (VBI) as a group of data rows in a vertical blanking period of a TV broadcast signal described above. The watch information contents D1 are broadcast at a date and time (midnight) that has been specified in advance. The group of data rows inserted by this insert section 29 is irradiated from the antenna 98 by predetermined transmission electric power after being modulated by a predetermined modulation system by the transmission section 95.

[0060]

In this way, according to the information distribution apparatus

19 of the present invention, in the case where the watch information contents D1 concerning software watches or the like are distributed as data by using a data broadcast infrastructure, the watch information contents D1 are constructed in a group of data rows, and are inserted into a carrier signal by means of the inserter 92. The watch information contents D1 are multiplied and transmitted during a vertical blanking period of a television broadcast signal (carrier signal) adopted by the data broadcast infrastructure. The television broadcast signals obtained by constructing and inserting the data rows by this inserter 92 are provided so as to be transmitted from the transmission section 95 to the information user's hand held terminal devices 14 in batch.

[0061]

Therefore, in each of the information user's hand held terminal device 14, a group of data rows is received in batch in a predetermined period so that the group can be stored in batch in a nonvolatile storage device or the like. In this manner, the information user freely reads out the watch information contents D1 concerning a variety of software watches by the hand held terminal device 14 in an unreal time (asynchronously) after receiving the watch information contents D1 so that a software watch such as brand watch or fashion watch can be configured.

[0062]

Now, a description will be given with respect to a format of data rows applied by the software watch system 101. The format of data rows concerning the watch information contents D1 shown in FIG. 5 is prepared at the broadcast station 9 or the like, and a data main body is divided into respective packets and transmitted.

[0063]

In this example, in the tuner device 24 or a hand held telephone

set 401 described later, a transfer request command is described at the head of a data row so as to be automatically received even at midnight. The transfer request command is provided as data for initializing (starting up) the hand held terminal device 14 or the like in a standby state. A dummy packet following this transfer request command is inserted. The dummy packet is provided so as to form a setup period. The setup period is a period of time for the tuner device 24 or the like to enable reception.

[0064]

All the program data for one trial is described following this setup period. Program data is described in a bit data format, and the watch information contents D1 concerning analog or digital software watches or the like are provided as a target. Program data is apparently described without any discrimination of the watch information contents D1, the program information D2, or alternatively, a program code, video image information, and audio information.

[0065]

A program start command is described at the head of this program data, and then, $N+1$ blocks, block 0 to block N , are described. The above described watch information contents D1 or program code and content code for video image and audio information are described in units of blocks. Block 0 is a first block, and block N is a last block. After the block N , a block end command is described. A block header is described at the head of each of the blocks 0 to N , for example, the block 1. A header code, attributes such as the start, middle, and end of a block, a block length such as number of packets, or a content code and the like are described in the block header.

[0066]

After this block header, $M+1$ packets are described for each block.

Packet 0 is a first packet, and packet M is a last packet. A packet code, attributes such as the start, middle, and end of a packet, and an error correction code such as parity are described in each of the packets 0 to M, for example, packet 1.

[0067]

FIG. 6 is an imaginary view showing a data configuration of the watch information contents D1 for data distribution. The watch information contents D1 shown in FIG. 6 are composed of a time correction program and a wristwatch video image display information (hereinafter, referred to as "wristwatch OSD data") in a case where the data is distributed by using a broadcast or communication infrastructure. The time correction program is composed of current time data and a time correction program.

[0068]

The wristwatch OSD data is composed of menu data, a total of "m" types of analog OSD data (1), (2), ..., and digital OSD data (m-1) and (m). One item of analog OSD data (1) is composed of character board graphic data provided as an example of character board information D11 and a time display program provided as an example of the clock display data D12.

[0069]

FIG. 7 shows an example of the watch information contents concerning analog software. In the example shown in FIG. 7, in the analog OSD data (1), for example, "circular" as clock frame information D10, Arabic numerals 1 to 12 as character board information D11, "spade arrow" shapes of long and short indicators and "linear" shape of second indicator as indicator shape information D13, and "plain" as character board background information D14 are described, respectively. In analog

OSD data (2), "octagon" as clock frame information D10, Roman numerals "I to XII" as character board information D11, "arrow" shapes of long and short indicators and "linear" shape of second indicator as indicator shape information D13, and "landscaper" picture as character board background information D14 are described, respectively.

[0070]

In addition, in analog OSD data (3), "elliptical shape" as clock frame information D10, 12 scale character codes as character board information D11, "rod" shapes of long and short indicators and "linear" shape of second indicator as indicator shape information D13, and "animal picture" as character board background information D14 are described, respectively. In analog OSD data (4), "hexagon" as clock frame information D10, 12 diamond shape codes as character board information D11, "rounded line" shapes of long and short indicators and "linear" shape of second indicator as indicator shape information D13, and "plant picture" as character board background information D14 are described, respectively.

[0071]

The information user can create a software watch by using the analog OSD data (1), (2), and (3)... only. Of course, from among the analog OSD data (2), the "octagon" as clock frame information D10, the "arrow" shapes of long and short indicators as indicator shape information D13 may be selected and from among the analog OSD data (1), Arabic numerals 1 to 12 as character board information D11, and the "plain" as character board background information D14 may be selected. Although they relate to analog software watches, items concerning digital software watches (not shown) are prepared.

[0072]

Now, a description will be given with respect to an internal configuration of the tuner device 24 with a charging function and the hand held terminal device 14. FIG. 8 is a block diagram depicting an internal configuration of the tuner device 24 with the charging function and the hand held terminal device 14. In this system 101, the information user side prepares a dedicated hand held terminal device 14 or tuner device 24 so as to receive the watch information contents D1 caused by the information distribution apparatus 19 and perform data processing thereon.

[0073]

In FIG. 8, the tuner device 24 has a tuner 55 that receives data externally supplied. This tuner 55 extracts data rows according to the watch information contents D1 from a ground wave data broadcast signal received from an antenna 42 so as to deliver them to a bus 57. A flash memory 33 is provided in the tuner device 24 so as to store the data rows transferred from the bus 57.

[0074]

In this example, video image and audio information according to the watch information contents D1 is multiplied by using vertical blanking interleaving (VBI: vertical blanking interleaving interval) that is a gap of broadcast electric waves in accordance with an NTSC system that is a ground wave television broadcast. This makes it possible to distribute a variety of digital contents (the contents contain a video image, an image (dynamic image and static image), a variety of pieces of information such as audio, character, and numeric values; a program or commercial reproduced by a television receiver or radio receiver; and contents of magazines or newspaper). Therefore, the ground wave television broadcast electric waves can be received by mean of the antenna 42 such as conventional Yagi antenna.

[0075]

Television broadcast electric waves contain electric waves of a plurality of channels. In order to select and receive a desired channel, a selection frequency of a tuner 55 is configured so as to be switched through a channel selector circuit 56 based on channel information set by a channel selector switch 38. Data rows (NTSC signal used here) selected by the tuner 55 and supplied to the bus 57 are decoded by means of a data decoder circuit 58.

[0076]

When data rows according to a variety of the contents multiplied as a VBI at the broadcast station 9 side are present within an NTSC signal in the tuner device 24, the decoded data such as the video image and audio information, the program information D2, and the watch information contents D1 are temporarily stored in a flash memory 33 under the control of a microcomputer 90, including a case where the hand held terminal device 14 is not set.

[0077]

When this hand held terminal device 14 is set at the tuner device 24, the watch information contents D1 may be directly transferred to the hand held terminal device 14 at the same time through an external interface 60 that is a serial interface and a connector terminal 65. The microcomputer 90 and the data decoder circuit 58 are configured as an integrated system LSI.

[0078]

Although a removable hand held terminal device 14 is set at this tuner device 24, it is considered that the watch information contents D1 concerning software watches or the like are often removed from the tuner device 24, and are processed. After data broadcasting, for example, the

watch information contents D1 stored in a flash memory 33 of the tuner device 24 are provided so as to be downloaded in the hand held terminal device 14.

[0079]

This hand held terminal device 14 has a bus 74, and to this bus 74, there are connected an external interface 67, a microcomputer 70, a data storage 75, an amplifier 76, an interface 86, and a liquid crystal display controller (LCDC) 88 and a memory card 202 is mounted through a connector terminal (not shown).

[0080]

In addition, data rows delivered to the hand held terminal device 14 through a connector terminal 65 of the tuner device 24 are electrically written into a data storage 75 that is an example of nonvolatile storage device under the control of the microcomputer 70 through a connector terminal 69 of the hand held terminal device 14, an external interface 67 that is a serial interface and a bus 74.

[0081]

Clock screen information that configures a plurality of software watches is provided so as to be stored in this data storage 75. This is because the information user can enjoy a software watch freely according to the preference of the date.

[0082]

The microcomputer 70 is provided as an example of a display control section and it receives and stores the watch information contents D1, reads out the watch information contents D1 from the data storage 75 asynchronously according to the information user's information operation, and controls the watch information contents D1 to be displayed as a video image. This microcomputer 70 is provided so as to display and control a

video image concerning software watches, which consists of a three-dimensional video image obtained by processing the watch information contents D1.

[0083]

In the case where a time indicating sound is set, the sound is controlled so as to be outputted as an audio. In this example, an automatic background variable mode is prepared so as to automatically display a character board background video image adapted to the season according to watch information contained in the hand held terminal device 14. Of course, a character board background video image adapted to the time interval, for example, an item "sunset" may be automatically displayed in evening, for example, without being limited to the season. A time sense and season sense can be provided according to such the automatic background variable mode.

[0084]

Otherwise, in the microcomputer 70, a memory card 202 is mounted to display and control game data D02, and the watch information contents D1 are acquired from the software watch memory card 202 so as to display and control the software watch.

[0085]

A read-only memory (EEPROM) or the like in which information can be electrically written and erased is used in the above described data storage 75 and, in this example, even if the hand held terminal device 14 is not set at the tuner device 24, the data rows are provided so as to be electrically stored in the flash memory 33. When the hand held terminal device 14 is set at the tuner device 24, the data rows are provided so as to be transferred to the data storage 75 of the hand held terminal device 14 under the control of the microcomputer 90.

[0086]

As a storage capacity of the flash memory 33 or data storage 75, in the case where a data rate of a data broadcast is about 40 [kbps], if an attempt is made to store the data at least for about 50 minutes, a 16 [MB] capacity may be used. The result is $40 \text{ [kbps]} / 8 \text{ [bits]} \times 50 \text{ [minutes]} \times 60 \text{ [seconds]} = 15 \text{ [MB]}$.

[0087]

The microcomputer 70 is a digital computer and it arbitrarily performs image processing on the watch information contents D1 based on program information D2 read out from the data storage 75 or on the game data D02 based on video image and audio information read out from the memory card 202. The microcomputers 70 and 90 each have: a CPU (central processing unit); a ROM that is a memory (including EEPROM); a RAM (random access memory); an input/output interface, a clock provided as clock means, and a timer or the like provided as clocking means, so that each of them functions as a control section, a computing section, and a processing section and the like. Therefore, as described above, the functions of the data decoder circuit 58 can be executed by means of the microcomputer 90.

[0088]

A reception display lamp 37 is connected to the microcomputer 90 at the tuner device 24 side. This reception display lamp 37 is controlled to light while data is transferred from the tuner device 24 to the data storage 75 and data is stored in the data storage 75 but otherwise, to turn OFF the lamp. The reception display lamp 37 may blink upon the completion of reception of a data row.

[0089]

This tuner device 24 further has a power circuit 80. This power

circuit 80 converts an alternating current voltage such as AC100 V supplied from an external AC power source into a direct current voltage, and supplies the voltage to all blocks in the tuner device 24. In this case, a charging control circuit 85 converts a direct current voltage supplied from the power circuit 80 into a charging direct current, for example, supplies the converted current to a secondary battery 87 of the hand held terminal device 14 via a connector terminal 68 of the hand held terminal device 14 through a connector terminal 66, and controls its charging.

[0090]

In charging control contained in the charging control circuit 85, for example, a charging current is controlled while a temperature of a secondary battery 87 is detected, thereby carrying out residual capacitance detection control and full charge detection control of the secondary battery 87. As the secondary battery 87, a lithium ion battery or a nickel hydrogen battery and the like can be used.

[0091]

A charging display lamp 36 is connected to the charging control circuit 85. This charging display lamp 36 is controlled so as to light while the secondary battery 87 is being charged and to turn OFF during full charging. Further, in the hand held terminal device 14, an operating key 32 is further connected to the bus 74 via the interface 86, and a liquid crystal display monitor 122 is connected to the bus via a liquid crystal display controller 88. An audio processing section 76 is connected to the bus 74 described above so that audio amplification processing or the like is done. A speaker 77 is connected to the audio processing section 76 so as to output audio information such as time indicating sound according to the watch information contents D1.

[0092]

Now, a processing example of a software watch system 101 will be described here. FIG. 9 is a flow chart showing an exemplary operation of the tuner device 24 in the software watch system 101.

[0093]

In this example, the watch information contents D1 concerning the software watches are provided as data rows so that the data rows are distributed from the broadcast station 9 to the information user. The watch information contents D1 are provided as a time correction program or wristwatch OSD data according to the software watches, which is created by the information provider side.

[0094]

In this example, while the hand held terminal device 14 is set at the tuner device 24 and waits for data download, the hand held terminal device 14 is established in a standby mode. The standby mode used here denotes that a system LSI such as a microcomputer 70 of the hand held terminal device 14 and an LCDC 88 is turned OFF excluding an interface function with the microcomputer 90 of the tuner device 24 and a clock function.

[0095]

In this interface function as well, unlike general data transfer, a startup command from the microcomputer 90 can be polled at the required minimum low speed. In the tuner device 24, in order to detect a transfer request command, power is supplied from the power circuit 80 to each section. In addition, the hand held terminal device 14 is set at the tuner device 24, so that the secondary battery 87 is charged by the charging control circuit 85 during this period.

[0096]

With this being presumed, the tuner device 24 is established in a

standby mode, and a transfer request command transmitted from the broadcast station 9 is detected at the step C1 in the flowchart shown in FIG.

9. In the case where a transfer request command is detected by the tuner device 24, a transfer request command for notifying the start of downloading from the tuner device 24 to the hand held terminal device 14 is transmitted, so that, at the hand held terminal 14, the microcomputer 70 itself initiates the hand held terminal device 14 to enter a receiving mode at the step C2 by utilizing a setup period.

[0097]

The receiving mode used here denotes an intermediate mode between a standby mode and a normal (normal use) mode and a condition where in the microcomputer 70, in addition to the standby function, a high speed interface function with the tuner device 24 and an external memory interface function for transferring the data captured here to data storage 75 such as a flash memory are further turned ON. Therefore, at this time, power is supplied from the secondary battery 87 to the data storage 75, the microcomputer 70 and the like.

[0098]

Then, processing goes to the step C3 at which a reception display lamp 37 indicating that data row receiving is in process is lit by the microcomputer 90 of the tuner device 24. The charging display lamp 36 lights because the hand held terminal device 14 is set at the tuner device 24. The hand held terminal device 14 waits for a program start command from the tuner device 24.

[0099]

In addition, it is detected by the microcomputer 90 whether or not the program start command is described with respect to a data row following the setup period in the step C4. This program start command is

obtained as a signal that notifies the start of transferring all the programs to be downloaded once. The data on all the programs is divided into a plurality of blocks, as described in FIG. 5. Therefore, when a block start command is received (detected), processing goes to the step C5 at which it is detected whether or not a block header is described at a packet of a first (starting) block 0.

[0100]

In the case where this block header is detected, processing goes to the step C6 at which packet transfer processing is executing while a hand shake is obtained for a packet shaped data group finely divided into blocks in the microcomputers 70 and 90. Namely, when a data row is received at the tuner device 24, the data row is decoded to binary data by means of a data decoder circuit 58 as required.

[0101]

Then, the watch information contents D1 concerning software watches as a decoded data file are transferred to the flash memory 33 or the like, and are temporarily stored therein. In this example, the decoded data file is transferred to the flash memory 33 and the storage 75 of the hand held terminal device 14 at the same time, so that even if the information user fails to set the hand held terminal device 14 at the tuner device 24, data file after received can be transferred again from the tuner device 24 to the hand held terminal device 14.

[0102]

An end flag indicating the end of the block is described at the end of this packet, so that when the microcomputer 70 recognizes this, processing goes to the step C7 at which it is detected whether or not a program end command is described following the packet end flag. In the case where the program end command is not detected, processing reverts to

the step C5 at which it is detected whether or not a next block header is described.

[0103]

In this way, when data files are transferred from the tuner device 24 to the data storage 75 one after another until the program end command has been detected, and then, all the data rows are temporarily stored in the flash memory 33 or the data storage 75 and the like according to the buffer memory in the microcomputer 70, processing goes to the step C8 at which the reception display lamp 37 of the tuner device 24 is turned OFF by means of the microcomputer 90. The "receiving" indicator 47 of the hand held terminal device 14 is turned OFF by means of the microcomputer 70 having received the program end command.

[0104]

Then, processing goes to the step C9 at which the "received" lamp blinks at the tuner device 24 and the hand held terminal device 14. The "received" lamp may be compatible with the reception display lamp 37 or the "receiving" indicator 47. Then, processing goes to the step C10 at which the hand held terminal device 14 enters a standby mode.

[0105]

FIG. 10A to FIG. 10D are charts each showing an assembly example of an analog software watch 1. In this example, arbitrary clock frame information D110, character board information D11, indicator shape information D13, and character board background information D14 are selected from among the analog OSD data (1), (2), (3), (4)... shown in FIG. 7, a user specific software watch 1 is produced, and then, time display data is composed so as to clock a time.

[0106]

With this being presumed, the operating key 32 shown in FIG. 8

is operated so as to read out menu data to the liquid crystal display monitor (LCD) 122. Then, clock frame information D10 on "a circular shape" as shown in FIG. 10A is selected from (1) of the analog OSD data (1), (2), (3), (4)... shown in FIG. 7, for example.

[0107]

At this time, the operating key 32 is operated so as to read out the watch information contents D1 from the data storage 75 to the liquid crystal display monitor (LCD) 122. Then, in FIG. 10B, for example, character board information D11 on Arabic numerals 1 to 12 of the analog OSD data (1) is selected on the liquid crystal display monitor 122 in order to be combined with the clock frame information D10 on the "circular shape".

[0108]

Then, in the FIG. 10C, indicator shape information D13 according to the long and short indicators consisting of "spade arrow" and the "straight" second indicator of the analog OSD data (1) is selected similarly. In this example, the "plain" is selected for the character board background information D14. Of course, "landscape picture", "animal picture", and "plant picture" or the like may be combined with each other without being limited to the "plain" with respect to the character board background information D14.

[0109]

When these clock frame information D10, character board information D11, indicator shape information D13, and character board background information D14 are combined with each other, an analog wristwatch shown in FIG. 10D is completed. Here, accessory information such as accessories including wristbands or jewels of wristwatch may be combined. Of course, such the accessory information is prepared by the

information provider in advance so as to be downloaded together with character board background information D14 or the like. In this manner, a user specific analog software watch 1 can be created, and this watch can be displayed as a video image on the liquid crystal display monitor 122. In this circumstance, a time cannot be clocked.

[0110]

Then, clock display data on analog software watch 1 shown in FIG. 11A to FIG. 11C is provided so as to be composed. In this example, assume that a time is clocked by a geometrical angle of 1 degree with respect the long and short indicators and the second indicator.

[0111]

With respect to a video image of the long indicator of the software watch 1 completed in FIG. 10D, 360 pieces of video image data D21 on the long indicator as shown in FIG. 11A are prepared in which a video image of the long indicator changes at a rate of 1 degree per 10 seconds. With respect to a video image of the short indicator of the software watch, 360 pieces of video image data D22 on the short indicator as shown in FIG. 11B are prepared in which a video image of the short indicator changes at a rate of 1 degree per 120 seconds. With respect to a video image of the second indicator, 60 pieces of video image data D23 on the second indicator as shown in FIG. 11C are prepared in which a video image of the second indicator changes at a rate of 6 degrees per second.

[0112]

Of course, addresses are described in 360 pieces of each of the video image data D21 and D22 according to the long and short indicators and 60 pieces of the video image data D23 according to the second indicator. When an arbitrary time is synchronized, video image data D21, D22, and D23 according to the long and short indicators and the second

indicator of an address indicating the time are read out from the data storage 75. After time synchronization, the video image data D21, D22, and D23 according to these long and short indicators and the second indicator are controlled to be displayed based on an operation clock of the microcomputer 70 in the hand held terminal device 14. Information concerning the completed software watch 1 is stored in the data storage 75.

[0113]

In this manner, a time can be clocked such as the video image of a second indicator changes by 6 degrees per second by the software watch 1, the video image of the long indicator changes at a rate of 1 degree per 10 seconds, and the video image of the short indicator changes at a rate of one degree per 120 seconds. The character board background information D14 is composed as still pictures such as "landscape picture", "animal picture", and "plant picture" and the like. The character board background information D14 is provided to be displayed and controlled in units of the time or in units of seasons.

[0114]

FIG. 12 is a flow chart showing a change example of the software watch 1. In this example, there is shown a case in which the software watch 1 as shown in FIG. 11 clocks a time in the hand held terminal device 14, and this software watch 1 is recreated (changed).

[0115]

With this being presumed, at the step E1 in the flow chart shown in FIG. 12, power of the hand held terminal device 14 is turned ON to enter a software watch mode. Then, at the step E2, it is checked whether or not the software watch 1 is changed. Change of the software watch 1 is made based on the information user's discretion. In the case where the software watch 1 is not changed, processing goes to the step E3 at which a time is

clocked by the software watch 1 based on the past clock display contents D1.

[0116]

In the case where the software watch 1 is changed at the step E2, processing goes to the step E4 at which analog type or digital type is selected by operating the operating key 32. In the case where analog type is selected, processing goes to the step E5 at which an analog menu screen is displayed on the liquid crystal display monitor 122. Then, processing goes to the step E6 at which the clock frame information D10, the character board information D11, the indicator shape information D13, and the character board background information D14 D1 as shown in FIG. 10 are selected from among the watch information contents D1 as shown in FIG. 7, and a new software watch 1' is created.

[0117]

Then, at the step E7, the past information concerning the software watch 1 is updated. Information concerning a new software watch 1' is updated by the data storage 75. Then, processing goes to the step E8 at which it is checked whether or not the new software watch 1' is determined. The determination of the new software watch 1' is made based on the information user's discretion.

[0118]

In the case where the new software watch 1' is determined, processing goes to the step E9 at which the software watch 1' is displayed as a video image on the liquid crystal display monitor 122 based on the updated analog watch information contents D1, and a time is clocked based on the time display data. Here, when the information user roughly sets current time, the current time is displayed as a video image by means of the software watch 1' based on the current time data in a time correction

program.

[0119]

In addition, in the case where the new software watch 1' is not determined at the step E8 and the watch information contents D1 are selected again, processing goes to the step E10 at which it is checked whether or not the same or different system is provided. This system check is made based on the information user's discretion. In the case of the same system, processing goes to the step E5 at which the same processing as that described above is repeated. In the case of the different system and in the case where the digital type is selected at the step E4, processing goes to the step E11.

[0120]

At the step E11, a digital menu is displayed on a liquid crystal display monitor 122. Then, processing goes to the step E12 at which the operating key 32 is operated so as to select the watch information contents D1. Then, at the step E13, the information concerning the former software watch 1 is provided to be updated in the data storage 75.

[0121]

Then, processing goes to the step E14 at which it is checked whether the new software watch 1' is determined. The determination of the new software watch 1' is made based on the information user's discretion. In the case where the new software watch 1' is determined, processing goes to the step E16 at which the software watch 1' is displayed as a video image on the liquid crystal display monitor 122 based on the updated digital watch information contents D1, and a time is clocked based on the time display data.

[0122]

In the case where the new software watch 1' is not determined and

watch information contents D1 are selected again at the step E14, processing goes to the step E15 at which it is checked whether the same system or different system is provided. In the case of the same system, processing goes to the step E11 at which the same processing as that described above is repeated. In the case of the different system, processing goes to the step E5 at which an analog menu is displayed on the liquid crystal display monitor 122. Then, processing goes to the step E6 at which the watch information contents are selected. Then, at the step E7, the information concerning the past software watch 1 is provided so as to be updated in the data storage 75.

[0123]

In this way, in the software watch system 101 according to the first example of the present invention, after receiving the watch information contents D1, a new software watch 1' such as brand clock or fashion clock can be configured by freely combining the watch information contents D1 concerning a variety of clocks in an unreal time (asynchronously). The hand held terminal device 14 displays the software watch 1' based on the watch information contents D1 on the liquid crystal display monitor 122 and clocks a time.

[0124]

Moreover, the information user can select one software watch 1 from among a number of types by means of simple information operation, so that the user can use a preferable software watch 1 according to the time, the place and the occasion, and can enjoy the software watch 1 freely according to the preference of that date.

[0125]

A plurality of software watches 1 with different designs can be configured according to the information user's preference. In addition, in

the case where these software watches 1 are separately used, physical replacement of real wristwatches like the conventional system can be eliminated, the user does not wear the wristwatch directly around one's wrist, the wristwatch does not block manual work or is not damaged, and the user does not feel discomfort caused by sweat.

[0126]

(3) [Second Example]

FIG. 13 is an imaginary view showing a configuration of a software watch system 102 according to a second example of the present invention.

In this example, there is provided a system such that the tuner function and decode function shown in FIG. 8 are incorporated in a hand held telephone set 401 shown in FIG. 13, and watch information contents D1 are directly received by this hand held telephone set 401 wherein the distribution infrastructure of the watch information contents D1 may be a broadcast infrastructure, a communication infrastructure or another as in the first example. Of course, a memory card 203 provided as an example of an information recording medium having recorded therein the watch information contents D1' concerning a variety of clocks is mounted and used. This memory card 203 is provided by using the existing sales infrastructure.

[0127]

In the case where watch information contents D1' are distributed by this memory card 203, the contents are provided by using the existing sales infrastructure so that the contents may be separated from a broadcast or communication infrastructure. Namely, watch information contents D1' such as video image information on clock character board or time display software are provided to be on sale in the city as a package medium.

Moreover, the information user purchases wristwatch OSD information as a package medium at shop as if one purchases a wristwatch at mass-sales shop or the like.

[0128]

In addition, the information user mounts the memory card 203 on the dedicated hand held terminal device or hand held telephone set 401 to create a software watch 1, and then, he or she can display or utilize it on the liquid crystal screen or the like of the hand held telephone set 401. This is a software distribution mode similar to conventional music CD or video game software.

[0129]

In this manner, the information user mounts the memory card 203 on the hand held telephone set 401, and combines watch information contents D1' concerning a variety of clocks with each other in an unreal time (asynchronously), thereby making it possible to construct a software watch such as brand watch or fashion watch.

[0130]

FIG. 14 is an imaginary view showing a data configuration of the memory card 203. In the case where the watch information contents D1' are provided by a package medium such as the memory card 203, a larger amount of information can be handled as compared with data distribution. The watch information contents D1' shown in FIG. 14 are composed of wristwatch OSD data (wristwatch video image display information) and a accessory program.

[0131]

Some tens of types of analog OSD data and some tens of types of digital OSD data are described for the wristwatch OSD data. A time correction program such as the watch information contents D1 for data

distribution is not added to the watch information contents D1' for this package medium. This is because the purchase period of the memory card 203 is different depending on the information user, and time information cannot be handled in a real time. The accessory program is composed of a stop watch program, a world clock program, a calendar program, and a calculator program.

[0132]

This accessory program is provided so as to contain data for displaying a seasonal background graphics depending on seasons or graphics such as landscapes including early afternoon landscape or evening landscape depending on a time. A variety of performances can be achieved by automatically switching and displaying these items of graphic data. The wristwatch OSD data is substantially similar to the watch information contents D1 for data distribution, the description of which will be omitted here.

[0133]

Now, an internal configuration of the hand held telephone set 401 with a tuner function will be described here. FIG. 15 is a block diagram depicting an internal configuration of the hand held telephone set 401. The same reference numeral and the same name as the hand held terminal device 14 have like functions so that the description thereof will be omitted here.

[0134]

The hand held telephone set 401 shown in FIG. 15 is provided as an example of a first hand held terminal device, processes the watch information contents D1 from the broadcast station 9 and the watch information contents D1' or the game data D03 from the memory card 203 and the like, and has a system bus 79. To this system bus 79, there are

connected an operating section 4, a display section 6, an audio processing section 7, a data processing section 35, an external interface 67, a receiving section 204 or the like, and these elements are driven by means of a secondary battery 87.

[0135]

The memory card 203 is mounted on this external interface 67, and the watch information contents D1' concerning a variety of clocks produced by the information provider are stored therein. A nonvolatile memory such as a flash memory is used for the memory card 203. The receiving section 204 has a tuner 55, a communication modem 22, a channel selector switch 38, a channel selector circuit 56, and a flash memory 33, receives the watch information contents D1' concerning a variety of clocks and the program information D2 by means of the tuner 55 so as to store data such as video image and audio information after decoded, the watch information contents D1', the program information D2 and the like in the flash memory 33.

[0136]

In this example, the data processing section 35 has a data decoder circuit 58 and a microcomputer 90. The data processing section 35 has an additional function for reading out and processing a time correction program stored in the flash memory 33 other than a general telephone function, and mounting the memory card 203 so as to process time information contents D1' or game data D03.

[0137]

In this microcomputer 90, the time information contents D1' are associated with time information that has already managed by the hand held telephone set 401. For example, when the time information being a reference is distributed as data from the information provider to the

information user's hand held telephone set 401, the information user side corrects watch information managed by the hand held telephone set 401 based on time information defined as a reference. In this manner, there is no need to worry about an error of the software watch 1 because such error can be corrected automatically or by simple operation.

[0138]

In addition, an interface (I/F) 86 configuring an operating section 4 is connected to a system bus 79, and an operating key 32 is connected to this interface 86. The operating key 32 is operated so as to control the data decoder circuit 58 and microcomputer 90.

[0139]

Further, a liquid crystal display controller (LCDC) 88 configuring a display section 6 is connected to the system bus 79, and a liquid crystal display monitor 122 is connected to this controller 88 so as to display a video image of a software watch such as brand watch or fashion watch based on video image information. In this example as well, data rows multiplied in a vertical blanking period of a data broadcast signal employed at the broadcast station 9 are received in the tuner 55 so as to download these data rows in the flash memory 33.

[0140]

An audio processing section 7 reproduces and amplifies a time indicating sound according to the watch information contents D1', and outputs an audio signal to the speaker 77. In the case where a telephone function is selected, it functions as a telephone receiver. A microphone 78 is connected to this audio processing section 7 and in the case where the telephone function is selected, it functions as a telephone transmitter.

[0141]

A communication modem 22 is connected to this microcomputer

90 through the system bus 79, and is connected to a wireless base station, the Internet, a telephone line, a satellite line and the like, so that it is received by these communication lines in the case where a general telephone function is executed or in the case where the watch information contents D1 are downloaded by using the existing communication infrastructure and at the time of settlement of charged contents. A group of data rows received by this communication modem 22 is temporarily stored in the flash memory 33.

[0142]

Now, a processing example of the hand held telephone set 401 in the software watch system 102 will be described here. FIG. 16 is a flow chart showing a processing example of the hand held telephone set 401.

In this example, there is shown a case in which the software watch 1 as shown in FIG. 11 clocks a time in the hand held telephone set 401 and is recreated (changed) at intervals of communication processing. Assume that the memory card 203 is mounted in advance on an external interface 67.

[0143]

With this being presumed, when the hand held telephone set 401 is powered ON at the step F1 of the flowchart shown in FIG. 16, a main screen is displayed on a liquid crystal display monitor 122 at the step F2.

[0144]

Then, at the step F3, whether or not there is a message such as E-mail is displayed on the liquid crystal display monitor 122, and the information user checks it. In the case where an arrival is present, processing goes to the step F8 at which communication processing is executed while the communication modem 22 is interposed between the communication provider's server or the like. Then, processing goes to the

step F9 at which it is detected by the microcomputer 90 whether or not communication processing terminates. In the case where communication processing does not terminate, the communication processing of the step F8 is continued, a talk end signal is detected, and the communication processing is terminated.

[0145]

In addition, in the case where there is no message at the step F3, processing goes to the step F4 at which whether or not a message is delivered from the hand held telephone set 401 to the remote terminal device is displayed on the liquid crystal display monitor 122. In the case where the message is delivered to the remote device, processing goes to the step F8 at which communication processing is executed, the end of communication processing is detected at the step F9, and processing goes to the step F10.

[0146]

In the case where no message is delivered to the remote device at the step F4, whether or not to change the software watch 1 is displayed on the main screen at the step F5. In the case where the software watch 1 is not changed, processing goes to the step F10. In the case where the software watch 1 is changed at the step F5, processing goes to the step F6 at which update processing of the software watch 1 is done. Here, the watch information contents D1' are read out from the memory card 203 by means of the microcomputer 90.

[0147]

Then, when the information user operates the operating key 32, a control command is provided to the microcomputer 90 based on operational information D3 caused by this operating key 32 so as to display an example of watch information contents as described in FIG. 7 on the liquid crystal

display monitor 122 based on video image information. The audio processing section 7 reproduces and amplifies a sample sound such as time indicating sound, and the audio signal is outputted to the speaker 77. Reference should be made to FIG. 12 for a change example of these software watches 1.

[0148]

Then, processing goes to the step F7 at which it is checked whether update processing of the software watch 1 is continued or the processing is exited. In the case of exiting the update processing, processing goes to the step F10. At the step F10, the hand held telephone set 401 is established in a standby state. Then, processing goes to the step F11 at which it is checked whether or not all processes are terminated. In the case where these processes are not terminated, processing reverts to the step F2 at which a main screen is displayed on the liquid crystal display monitor 122. In the case where all the processes are terminated, power OFF information or the like is detected, and control processing in the hand held telephone set 401 is terminated.

[0149]

In this way, in the software watch system 102 according to the second example of the present invention, there is used the memory card 203 having recorded therein the watch information contents D1' concerning a variety of clocks. Moreover, the information user mounts the memory card 203 on the hand held telephone set 401, and freely combines the watch information contents D1' concerning a variety of clocks with each other in an unreal time (asynchronously), thereby making it possible to construct a software watch 1 such as brand watch or fashion watch.

[0150]

Therefore, since a variety of software watches 1 can be displayed

on the liquid crystal display monitor 122 based on watch information contents D1', there is no need to physically own a number of wristwatches, thereby making it possible to improve convenience in view of cost efficiency, management, or space reduction. In addition, in the case where these software watches 1 are separately used, physical replacement of real wristwatches like the conventional system can be eliminated, and further, there is no need for one to directly wear a real wristwatch around one's arm as compared with the conventional system, so that the wristwatch does not block manual work, is not damaged, and one does not feel discomfort caused by sweat.

[0151]

In this system 102, as in the hand held terminal device 14 according to the first example, clock screen information configuring a plurality of software watches 1 may be stored in the hand held telephone set 401, and this clock screen information may be selected to display an arbitrary software watch 1 as a video image so as to clock a time. The information user can select one software watch 1 from among many types by simple information operation, so that the user can use a preferable software watch 1 according to the time, the place and the occasion and can enjoy the software watch 1 freely according to the preference.

[0152]

Further, in this system 102, a time correction program PG can be downloaded in a real time by using the tuner 55 or the communication modem 22 so that the time of the software watch 1 can be automatically adjusted at the same time as this downloading.

[0153]

(4) [Third Example]

FIGS. 17A and FIG. 17B are perspective views each showing a

configuration of a hand held terminal device 14' applied in a software watch system 300 according to a third example of the present invention.

In this system 300, a foldable hand held terminal device 14' as shown in FIGS. 17A and FIG. 17B is prepared so as to arbitrarily adjust an opening angle of the hand held terminal device 14' that displays a clock screen according to a software watch and use the software watch as a placement clock.

[0154]

The hand held terminal device 14' in its retracted state is shown in FIG. 17A. In general, when one carries the hand held terminal device 14', the terminal device is kept retracted. FIG. 17B shows an example when the hand held terminal device 14' in its retracted state is opened. The hand held terminal device 14' shown in FIG. 17B has a liquid crystal display main body section 26A consisting of a cover body and an operating main body section 26B consisting of its main frame. This hand held terminal device 14' is designed to be foldable and when one looks at the liquid crystal screen or operates buttons or the like, as shown in FIG. 17B, the liquid crystal display main body section 26A is used to be fully opened.

[0155]

The liquid crystal display main body section 26A and the operating main body section 26B are movably engaged with each other by means of a hinge member 27. The hinge member 27 has a mechanism for holding a liquid crystal display main body section 26A at an arbitrary angle relevant to the operating main body section 26B by greatly designing a frictional coefficient of the axial section. With this mechanism, the liquid crystal display main body section 26A is locked even at an intermediate position of the open or closed state. Here, an opening angle between the liquid crystal display main body section 26A and the operating

main body 26B is defined as θ .

[0156]

A liquid crystal display monitor 122 is provided at this liquid crystal display main body section 26A to display a software watch video image or an advertisement video image. This liquid crystal display monitor 122 has a color liquid display screen of 320 pixels x 240 pixels, for example. Apart from the liquid crystal display monitor 122, an antenna 41 is mounted on a liquid crystal display main body section 26A so that the watch information contents D1 can be downloaded from the existing broadcast infrastructure.

[0157]

Two determination keys 30A and 30B and a cross key 28A configuring operating keys 32 are provided at an operating main body section 26B and are operated so as to input operational information such as information for stopping a time indicating sound. The determination key 30A functions as a power switch of the hand held terminal device 14' as well. With respect to an internal configuration of this hand held terminal device 14', the substantially same circuit configuration as that of the hand held terminal device 14 shown in FIG. 8 is employed except that the device is equipped with the tuner 55 shown in FIG. 15. Thus a description of such configuration will be omitted here.

[0158]

In this software watch system 300, a configuration similar to that of the hand held terminal device 14 shown in FIG. 8 may be provided without being equipped with the tuner 55. In this case, an antenna 41 is not mounted.

[0159]

FIG. 18 is a perspective view showing a handling example of the

hand held terminal device 14' in the software watch system 300. FIG. 18 shows an example when the hand held terminal device 14' is used at an opening angle $\theta = 120$ degrees. In this example, from example of the analog watch information contents D1 shown in FIG. 7, the "plain" as character board background information D14, the "octagon" as clock frame information D10, Roman numerals I to XII as character board information D11, and the "line with a circle" shape of long and short indicators and the "linear" shape of second indicator as the indicator shape information D13 are described, respectively, in combination.

[0160]

In this manner, this software watch can be used as a clock (placement clock) as well as watch (wristwatch), so that there is no need to own a number of placement clocks. A person basically needs only one clock so as to use the hand held terminal device 14' that one always carries as a watch or clock. For use of a placement clock, the watch information contents may be designed so as to be easily visible from a slightly distant place by increasing a time display itself.

[0161]

In this system 300 as well, a change in character board background video image can be provided by year, date or time according to the watch information contents D1 incorporated in the hand held terminal device 14'. For example, a seasonal background graphics is displayed according to seasons, and graphics such as early afternoon landscape or evening landscape is displayed according to time. Therefore, a character board background video image adapted to the time interval can be automatically displayed, and thus, the feeling of time or feeling of season can be performed.

[0162]

In this example, the watch information contents D1 are daily distributed from the information provider to the information user's hand held device 14' by using a broadcast infrastructure so that a design on a clock screen according to a software watch 1 in this hand held terminal device 14' may be automatically updated daily. As a result, update of the software watch 1 in the information user can be eliminated.

[0163]

In addition, in distributing the watch information contents D1, arbitrary advertisement information and associated additional information that is watch information contents D1 distributed as data or to be on sales are distributed at the same time so that such the associated additional information may be displayed at a portion of the clock screen managed by the hand held terminal device 14'.

[0164]

In this manner, the system 300 can be used as new advertisement media or information media. In the case where the wristwatch OSD information is distributed as data by using a broadcast or communication infrastructure, the advertisement information can be displayed at a portion of the software watch 1. Therefore, the system 300 can be used as advertisement media such as Internet banner advertisement or as new notification media for wristwatch OSD information commodities (distribution and package).

[0165]

(5) [Fourth Example]

FIG. 19 is a block diagram depicting a connection example of hand held terminal devices 14A and 14B applied in a software watch system 400 according to a fourth example of the present invention.

In this system 400, a short distance wireless communication

processing is carried out between two hand held terminal devices 14A and 14B, thereby obtain time synchronization.

[0166]

Infrared-ray wireless communication means (IrDA) 81 is provided at each of the hand held terminal devices 14A and 14B shown in FIG. 19 so as to carry out infrared-ray short distance wireless communication processing between the hand held terminal devices 14A and 14B.

IrDA 81 is connected to an interface 86B so that timing information concerning a standard time managed by a microcomputer 70 is delivered as an infrared-ray according to operation of an operating key 32. The operating key 32 is connected to an interface 86A so that the same reference numeral and element as those of the hand held terminal device 14 have like functions, a description of which will be omitted here.

[0167]

This infrared-ray short distance wireless communication processing is done so as to obtain synchronization of date or time in two hand held terminal devices 14A and 14B. For the purpose of this synchronization, for example, when the hand held terminal device 14A provided as a standard is set as a master device, and the hand held terminal device 14B that is time adjustable is set as a slave device, timing information DTR is transferred from the master device to the slave device, and then, in the slave device, the timing information managed by means of the microcomputer 70 is rewritten into the timing information DTR from the master device. In this manner, both of these devices are synchronized with each other at a standard time.

[0168]

In addition, downloading (copy) of the wristwatch OSD

information or the like between both of the hand held terminal devices 14A and 14B cannot be carried out in principle. When the watch information contents D1 are first downloaded, an ID code specific to the hand held terminal device 14A is incorporated by interleaving the watch information contents D1, and the incorporated code is stored in the data storage 75 or flash memory 33. Therefore, although one own hand held terminal device 14 or the like can release this interleave, the other device cannot release the interleave and disables copying because the ID code is different.

[0169]

[Effect of the Invention]

As has been described above, the watch information content distribution processing system according to the present invention comprises a plurality of hand held terminal devices for, in the case where watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks are distributed and electronically processed, acquiring and processing watch information contents, wherein a software watch is displayed as a video image by the hand held terminal device based on the watch information contents, and a time is clocked.

[0170]

With this configuration, a plurality of software watches with different designs can be configured according to the information user's preference. Moreover, in the case where these software watches are separately used, a physical replacement of the real wristwatches etc. like the conventional system can be eliminated, and one does not wear the watch directory unlike the conventional system so that the watch does not block manual work, and is not damaged, and one does not feel discomfort caused by sweat.

[0171]

An information distribution apparatus according to the present invention comprises a transmission section that distributes watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks as data so as to transmit a carrier signal having constructed and inserted therein a group of data rows of the watch information contents to the information user's hand held terminal device.

[0172]

With this configuration, at the information user's hand held terminal device, a group of data rows is received in batch within a predetermined period, and the received data rows can be stored in batch in a storage device or the like. Therefore, after receiving the watch information contents, the information user side freely reads out the watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks in an unreal time (asynchronously) by the hand held terminal device, thereby making it possible to configure a software watch such as brand watch or fashion watch.

[0173]

The hand held terminal device according to the present invention reads out watch information contents asynchronously according to the information user's information operation in the case where the watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks are acquired and processed, and displays at least a software watch as a video image based on the watch information contents.

[0174]

With this configuration, after receiving the watch information contents, the information user side can configure a software watch such as brand watch or fashion watch by freely combining the watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks in an unreal time (asynchronously).

Moreover, since the information user can select one software watch from among many types of software watches by a simple information operation, one can use a preferable software watch according to the time, the place and the occasion, and can enjoy the software watch freely according to one's preference of that date.

[0175]

The information recording medium according to the present invention describes the watch information contents that contain video image information on plural types of clock character boards and time display software and control procedures for displaying the software watches based thereon as an image and clocking a time.

[0176]

With this configuration, the watch information contents and the control procedures can be provided for sale as package media by using the existing sales infrastructure. Moreover, the information user side can mount an information recording medium on a hand held terminal device, and freely combine the watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks, thereby making it possible to construct a software watch such as brand watch or fashion watch.

[0177]

In the information processing method according to the present invention, the information provider side creates the watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks when processing the watch information contents concerning a variety of clocks, and distributes the watch information contents to the information user's hand held terminal device so as to display the software watch as a video image based on the watch information contents distributed as data and so as to clock a time.

[0178]

With this configuration, a plurality of software watches with different designs can be used according to the information user's preference. Moreover, in the case where these software watches are separately used, physical replacement of the real wristwatches etc. like the conventional system can be eliminated, and one does not wear the watch around one's wrist directly unlike the conventional system so that the watch does not block manual work or is not damaged, and one does not feel discomfort caused by sweat.

[0179]

Although the user needs only one watch that can be used at the same time, if an attempt is made to own a plurality of watches according to the time, the place and the occasion, all the real watches must contain batteries in the conventional system, but according to the present invention, so many batteries are not required, and it is environmentally reasonable from the viewpoint of prevention of wasteful battery power consumption.

[0180]

The present invention is very suitably applied to a software watch that embodies a wristwatch with an owner specific design, a brand watch, or fashion watch and the like by displaying it as a video image.

[Brief Explanation of Drawings]

[FIG. 1] is a block diagram depicting a configuration of a watch information content distribution processing system 100 according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[FIG. 2] is a flow chart showing a processing example of the watch information content distribution processing system 100;

[FIG. 3] is an imaginary view showing a configuration of a software watch system 101 according to the first example of the present invention;

[FIG. 4] is a block diagram depicting a configuration of an information distribution apparatus 19 and its peripheral system;

[FIG. 5] is a view showing a format example of a data row concerning watch information contents D1;

[FIG. 6] is an imaginary view showing data configuration of the watch information contents D1;

[FIG. 7] is an imaginary view showing an example of the watch information contents;

[FIG. 8] is a block diagram depicting an internal configuration of a tuner device 24 with its charging function and a hand held terminal device 14;

[FIG. 9] is a flow chart showing an exemplary operation of the tuner device 24 in the software watch system 101;

[FIGS. 10] relate to process views each showing an assembly example of an analog software watch 1;

[FIGS. 11] relate to imaginary views each showing an example of clock display data D12 of the analog software watch 1;

[FIG. 12] is a flow chart showing a change example of the software watch 1;

[FIG. 13] is an imaginary view showing a configuration of a software watch system 102 according to a second example of the present invention;

[FIG. 14] is an imaginary view showing data configuration of a memory card 203;

[FIG. 15] is a block diagram depicting an internal configuration of a hand held terminal device 401;

[FIG. 16] is a flow chart showing a processing example of the hand held terminal device 401;

[FIGS. 17] (A) and (B) are perspective views each showing an exemplary configuration of a hand held terminal device 14' applied in a software watch system 300 according to a third example of the present invention;

[FIG. 18] is a perspective view showing a handling example of the hand held terminal device 14';

[FIG. 19] is a block diagram depicting a connection configuration of the hand held terminal devices 14A and 14B applied in a software watch system 400 according to a fourth example of the present invention.

[Explanation of Reference Numbers]

4...operation section; 6... display section; 14, 14', 14A, 14B, #i (i=1-n)... hand held terminal devices; 19...information distribution device; 22...communication modem; 24...tuner device; 33...flash memory (storage device); 35...data processing section; 55...tuner; 70, 90...microcomputer (control device); 75...data storage (storage device); 81...Infrared-ray wireless communication means (IrDA); 92...inserter (data insert section); 95...transmission section; 100...watch information content distribution processing system; 101,102...first and second software watch systems; 300, 400...third and fourth software watch systems; 202, 203...memory card (information recording medium); 204...receiving section; 401...hand held telephone set

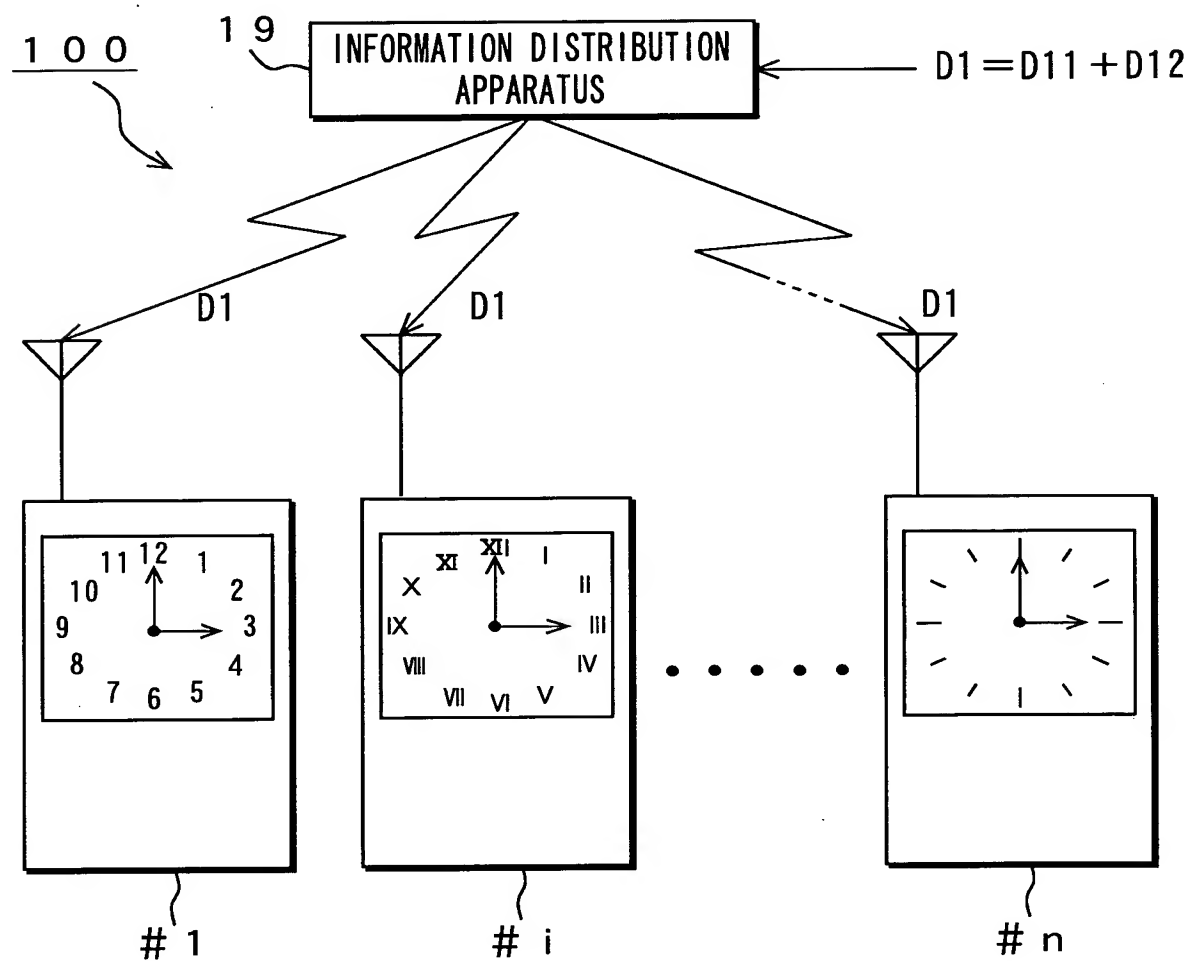
[Name of the Document] Abstract**[Abstract]**

[Problem] To configure a plurality of software watches with different designs according to the information user's preference, and, in the case where these software watches are separately used, to eliminate physical replacement of the real wristwatches etc. like the conventional system.

[Means for solving Problem] Provided is a system for distributing and electronically processing watch information contents D1 concerning a variety of clocks, the system comprising an information distribution device 19 that distributes the watch information contents D1 concerning a variety of clocks, the contents being created in advance, as data to an information user's hand held terminal device #i; and a plurality of hand held terminal devices #i that acquires and processes the watch information contents D1 distributed as data by this information distribution device 19, wherein a software watch based on the watch information contents D1 is displayed as a video image, and a time is clocked at the hand held terminal device #i.

[Selected Figure] Fig. 1

FIG. 1
 CONFIGURATION OF WATCH INFORMATION CONTENT DISTRIBUTION
 PROCESSING SYSTEM 100 ACCORDING TO AN EMBODIMENT



F I G . 2

PROCESSING EXAMPLE OF WATCH INFORMATION CONTENT
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM 100

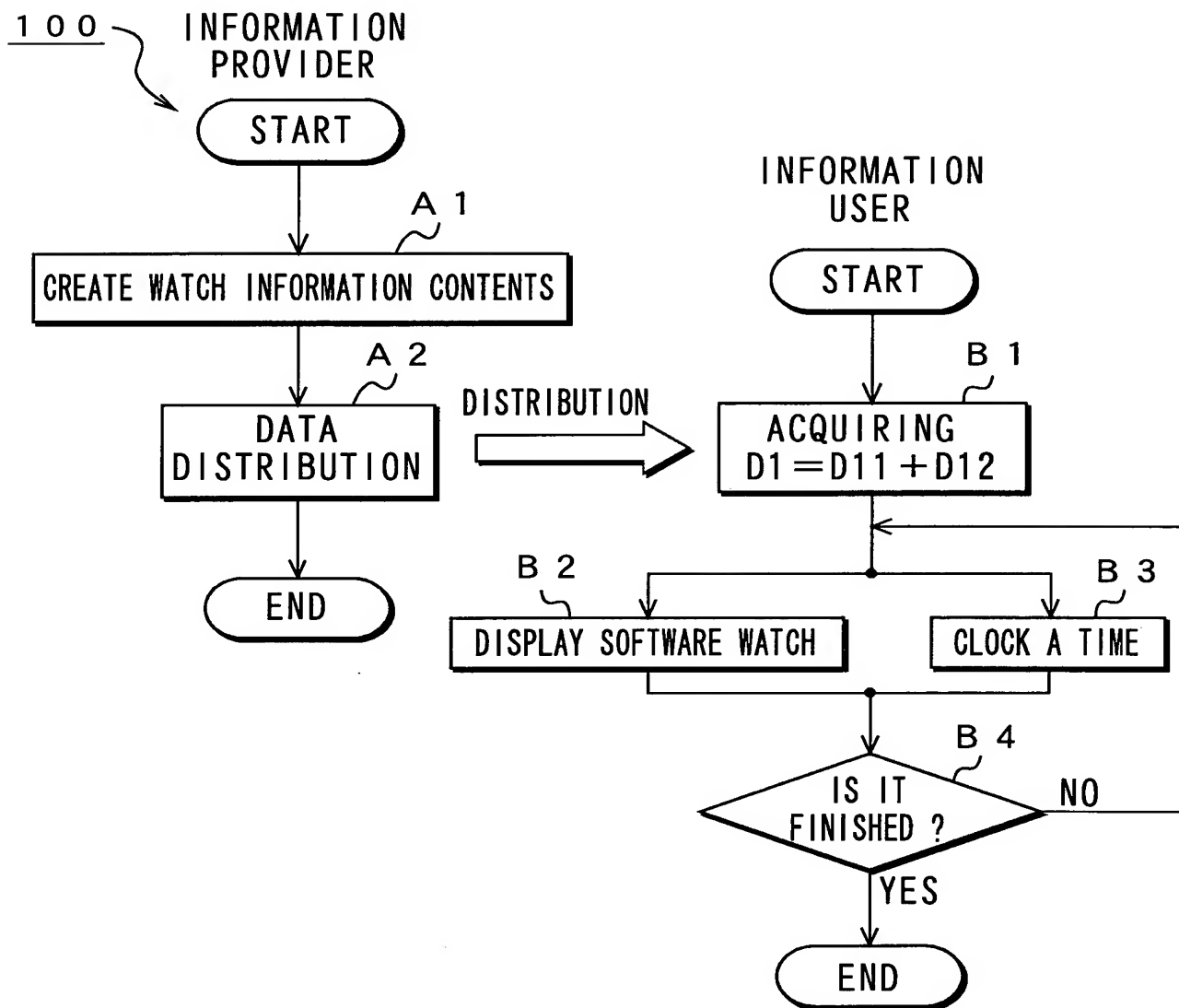


FIG. 3
CONFIGURATION OF SOFTWARE WATCH 101
ACCORDING TO THE FIRST EXAMPLE

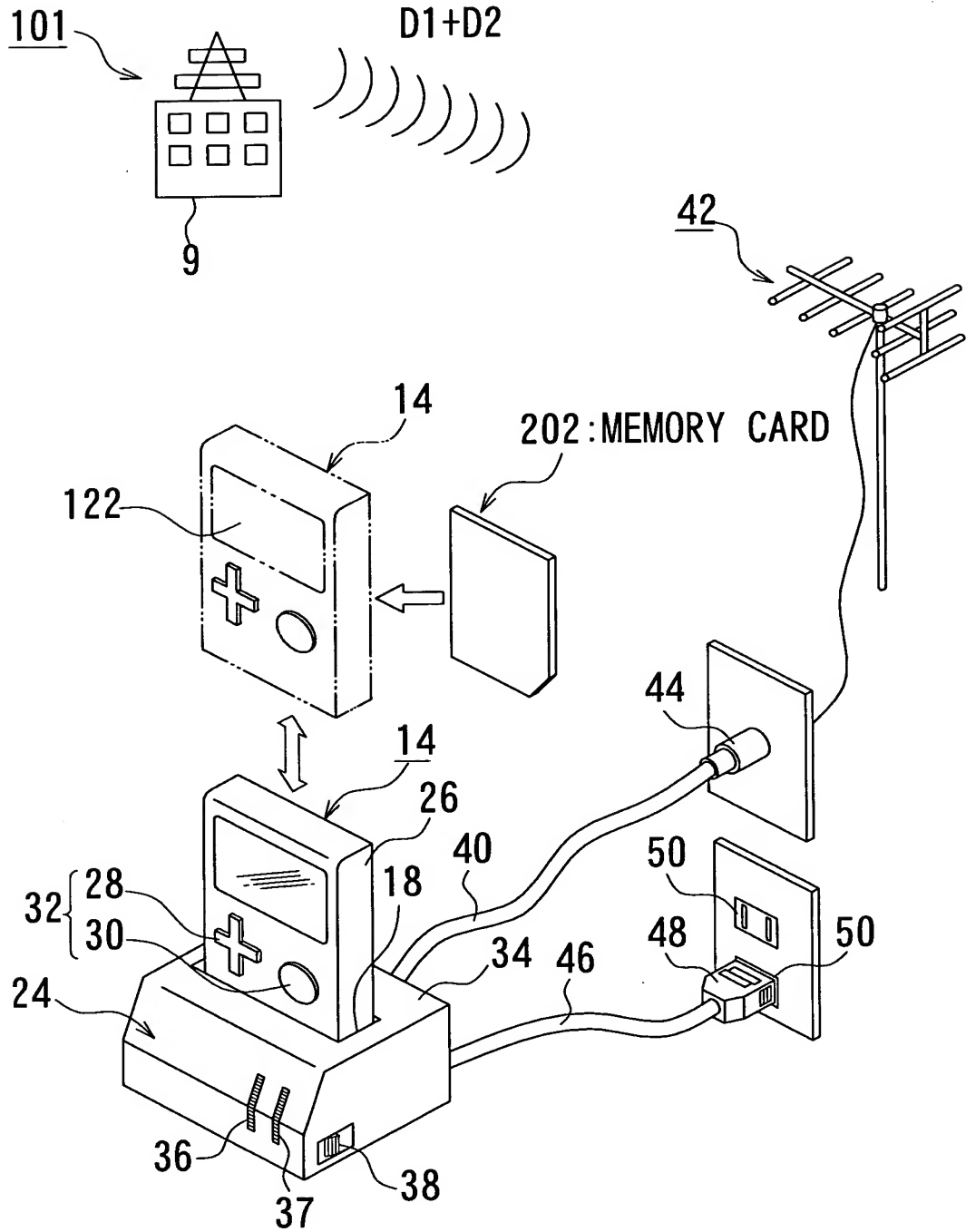


FIG. 4
 CONFIGURATION OF INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION APPARATUS 19
 AND ITS PERIPHERAL SYSTEM

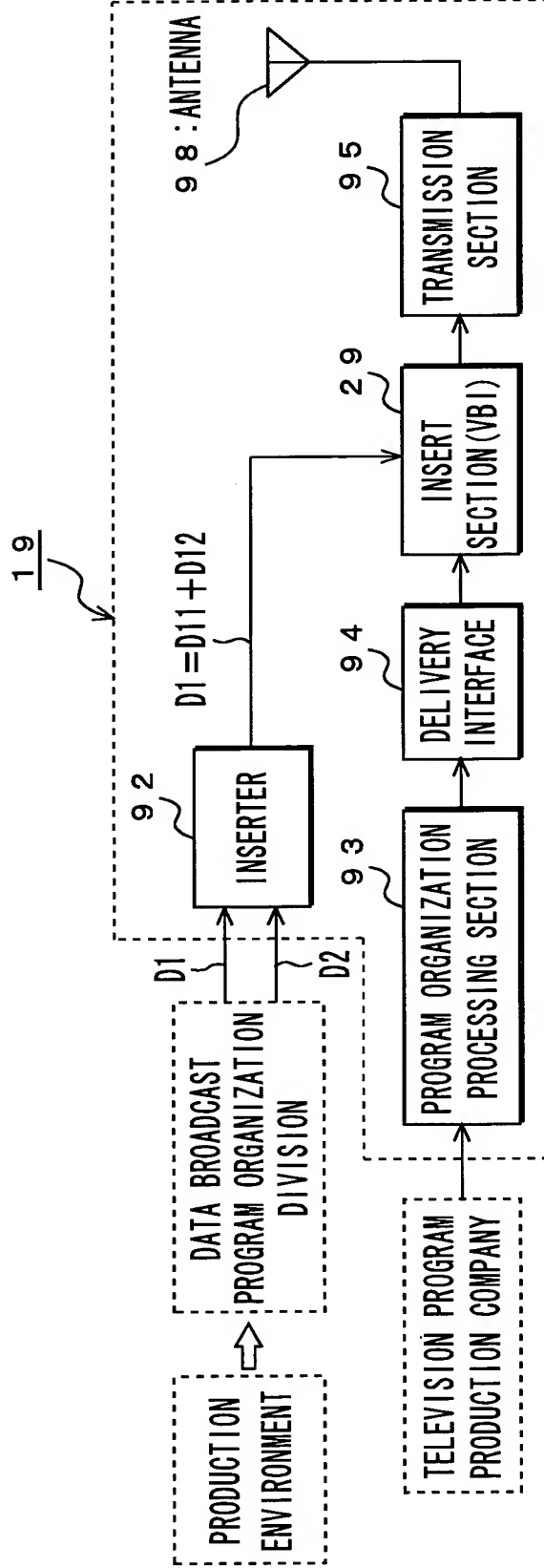


FIG. 5
 FORMAT EXAMPLE OF DATA ROW

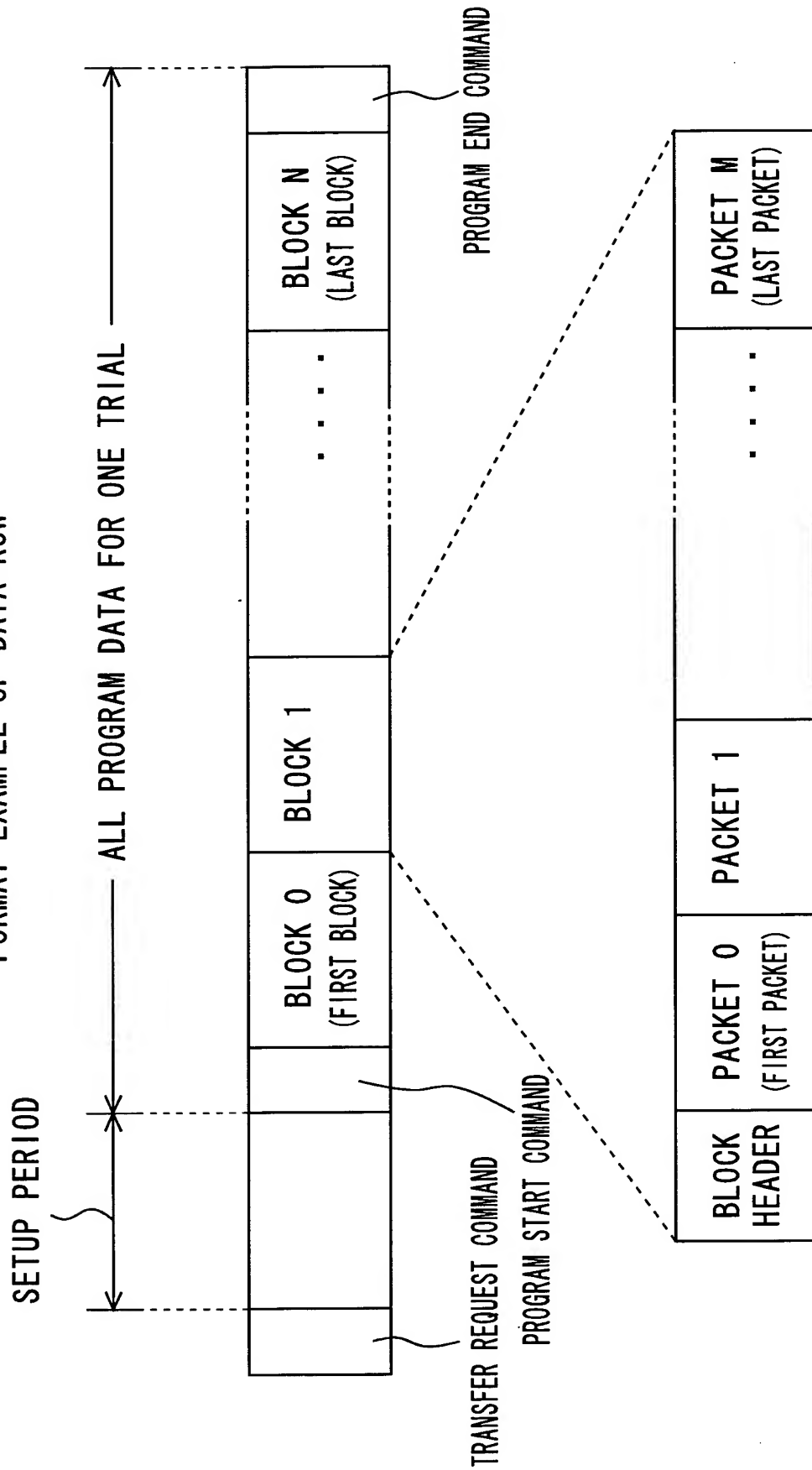
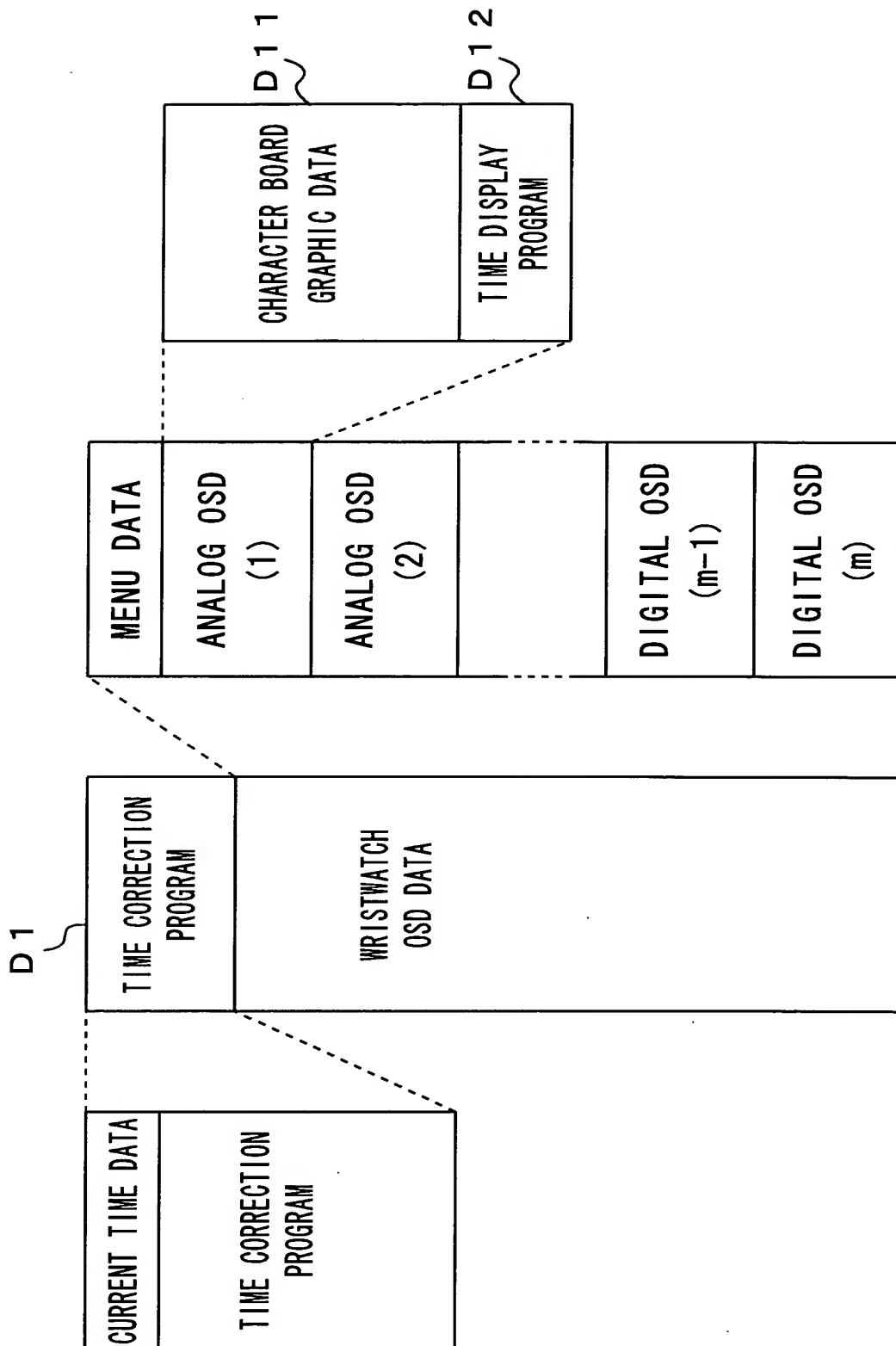


FIG. 6

DATA CONFIGURATION OF WATCH INFORMATION CONTENTS D1





F I G . 7
EXAMPLE OF WATCH INFORMATION CONTENTS

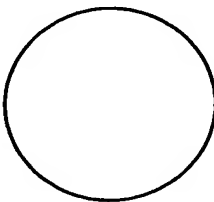
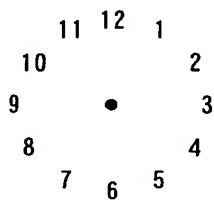
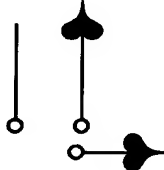
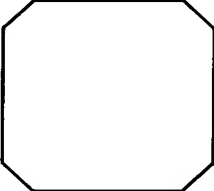
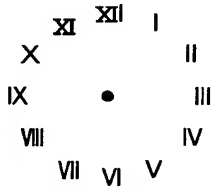
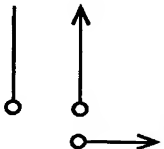
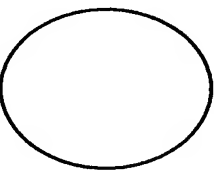
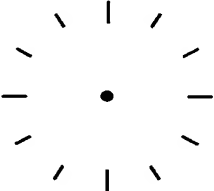
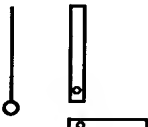
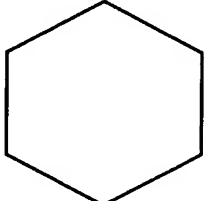
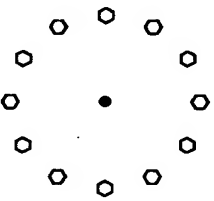
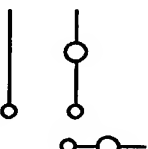
NUMBER	CLOCK FRAME INFORMATION D10	CHARACTER BOARD INFORMATION D11	INDICATOR SHAPE INFORMATION D13	CHARACTER BOARD BACKGROUND INFORMATION D14
(1)				PLAIN
(2)				LANDSCAPE PICTURE
(3)				ANIMAL PICTURE
(4)				PLANT PICTURE

FIG. 8

INTERNAL CONFIGURATION OF TUNER DEVICE 24 AND HAND HELD TERMINAL DEVICE 14

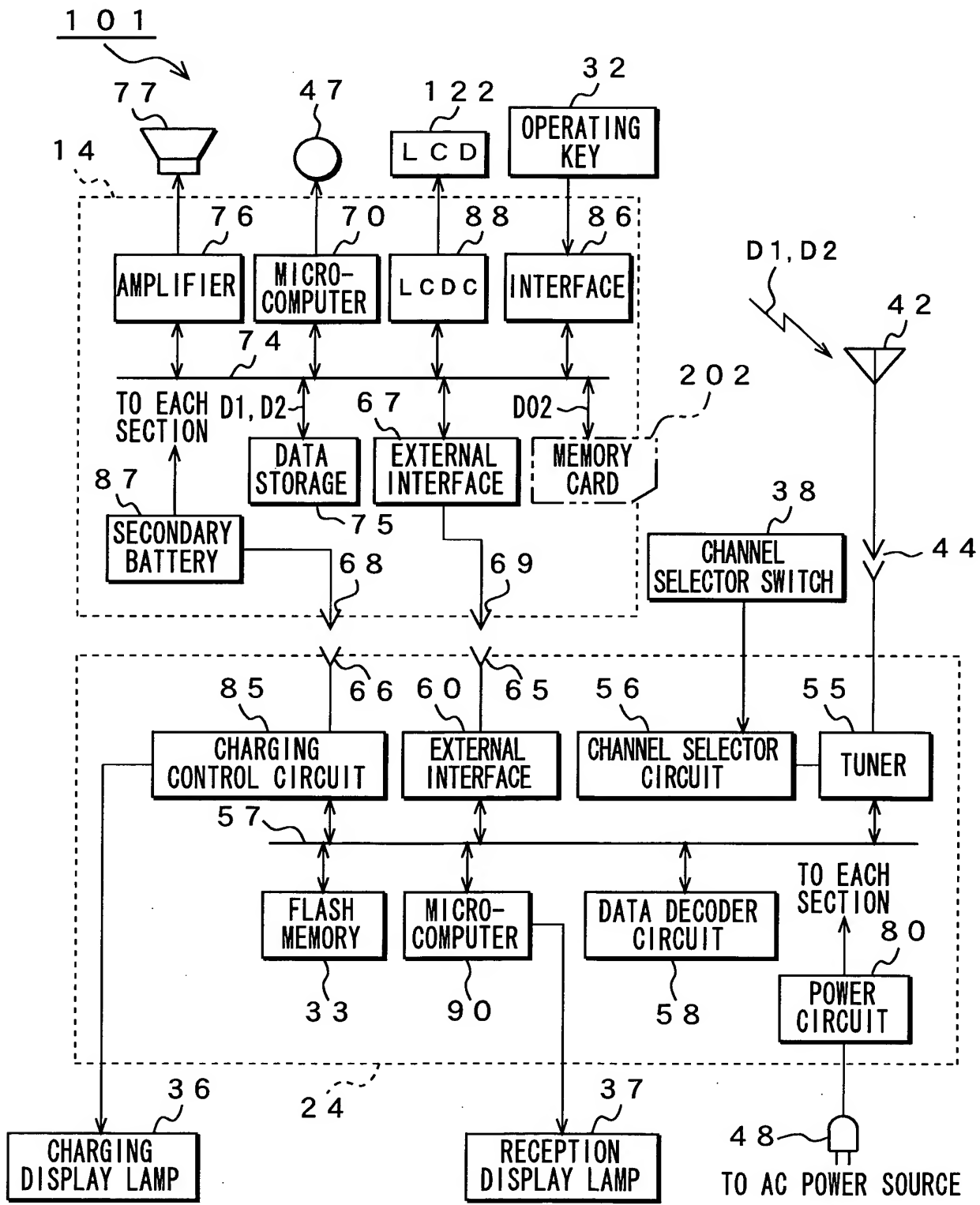




FIG. 9
EXEMPLARY OPERATION OF TUNER DEVICE 24

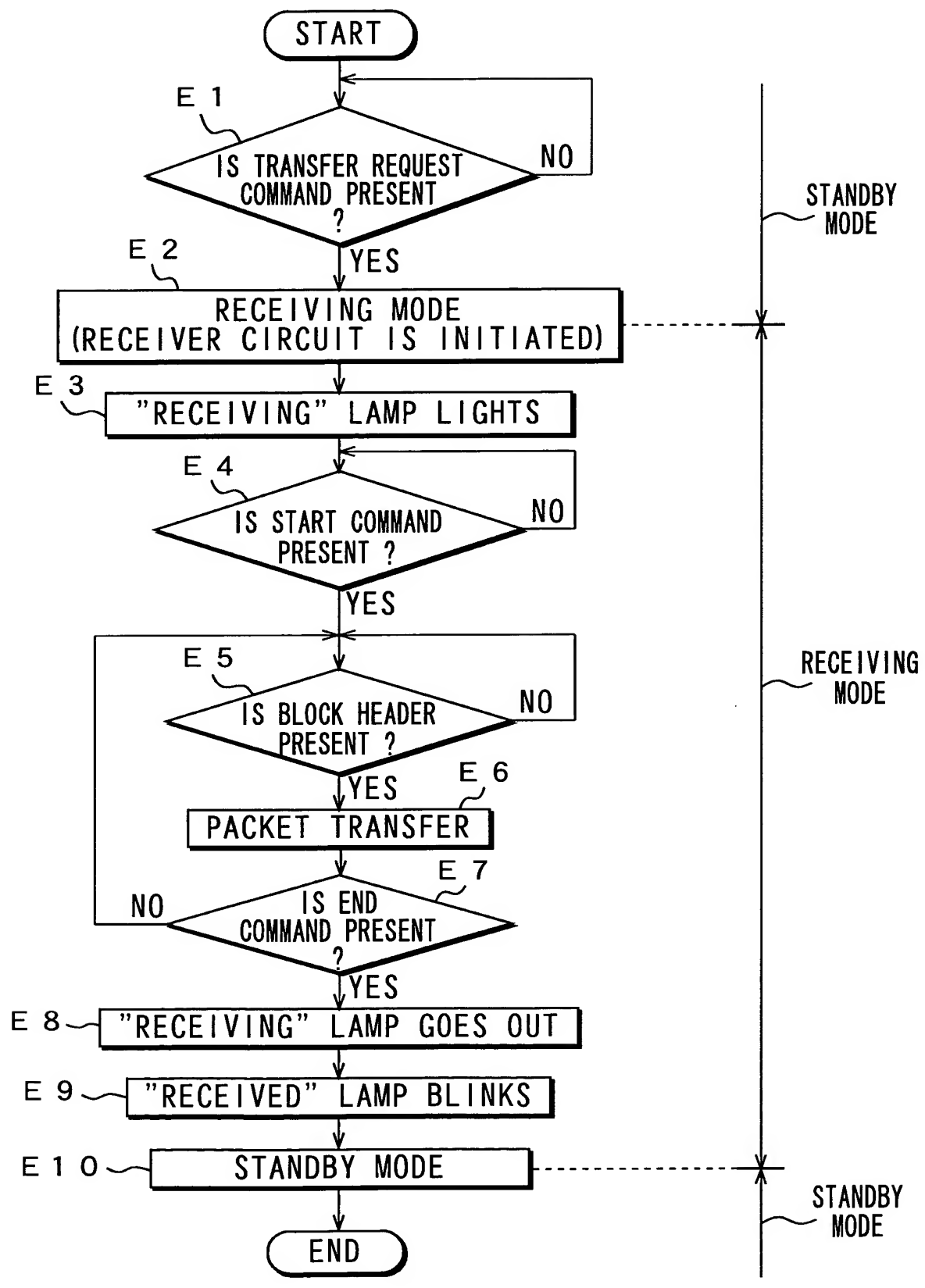
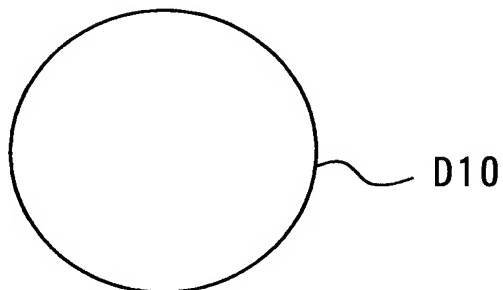


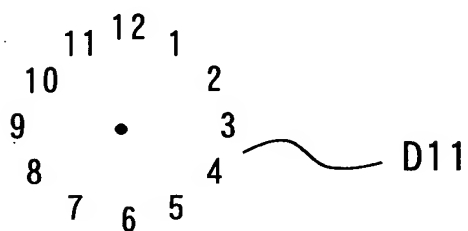
FIG. 10

ASSEMBLY EXAMPLE OF ANALOG SOFTWARE WATCH

(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)

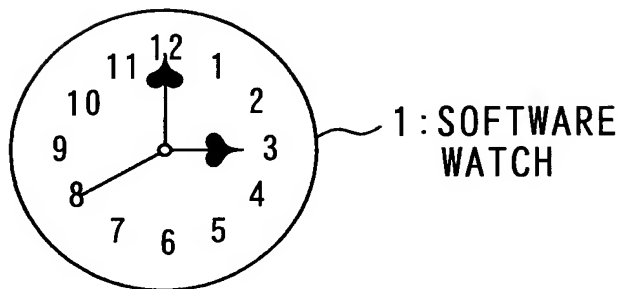
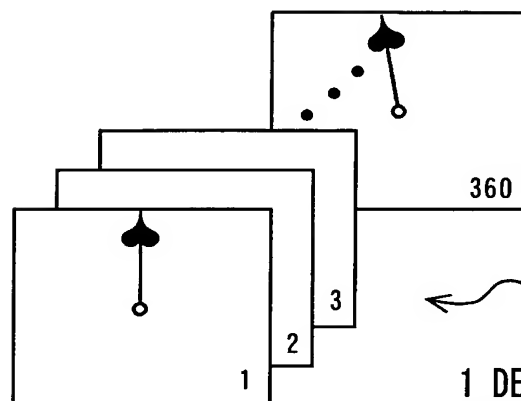


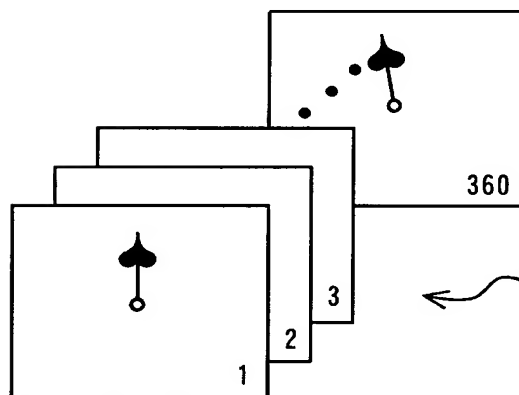
FIG. 11 EXAMPLE OF CLOCK DISPLAY DATA D12

(A)



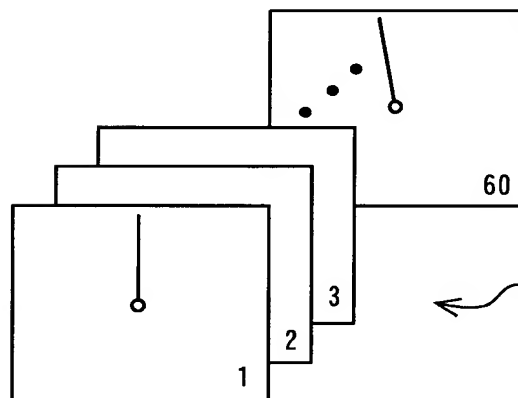
D21 : VIDEO IMAGE DATA OF
 LONGER INDICATOR
 1 DEGREE PER 10 SECONDS
 360 PIECES

(B)



D22 : VIDEO IMAGE DATA OF
 SHORTER INDICATOR
 1 DEGREE PER 120 SECONDS
 360 PIECES

(C)



D23 : VIDEO IMAGE DATA OF
 SECOND INDICATOR
 6 DEGREE PER SECOND
 60 PIECES

FIG. 12
CHANGE EXAMPLE OF SOFTWARE WATCH 1

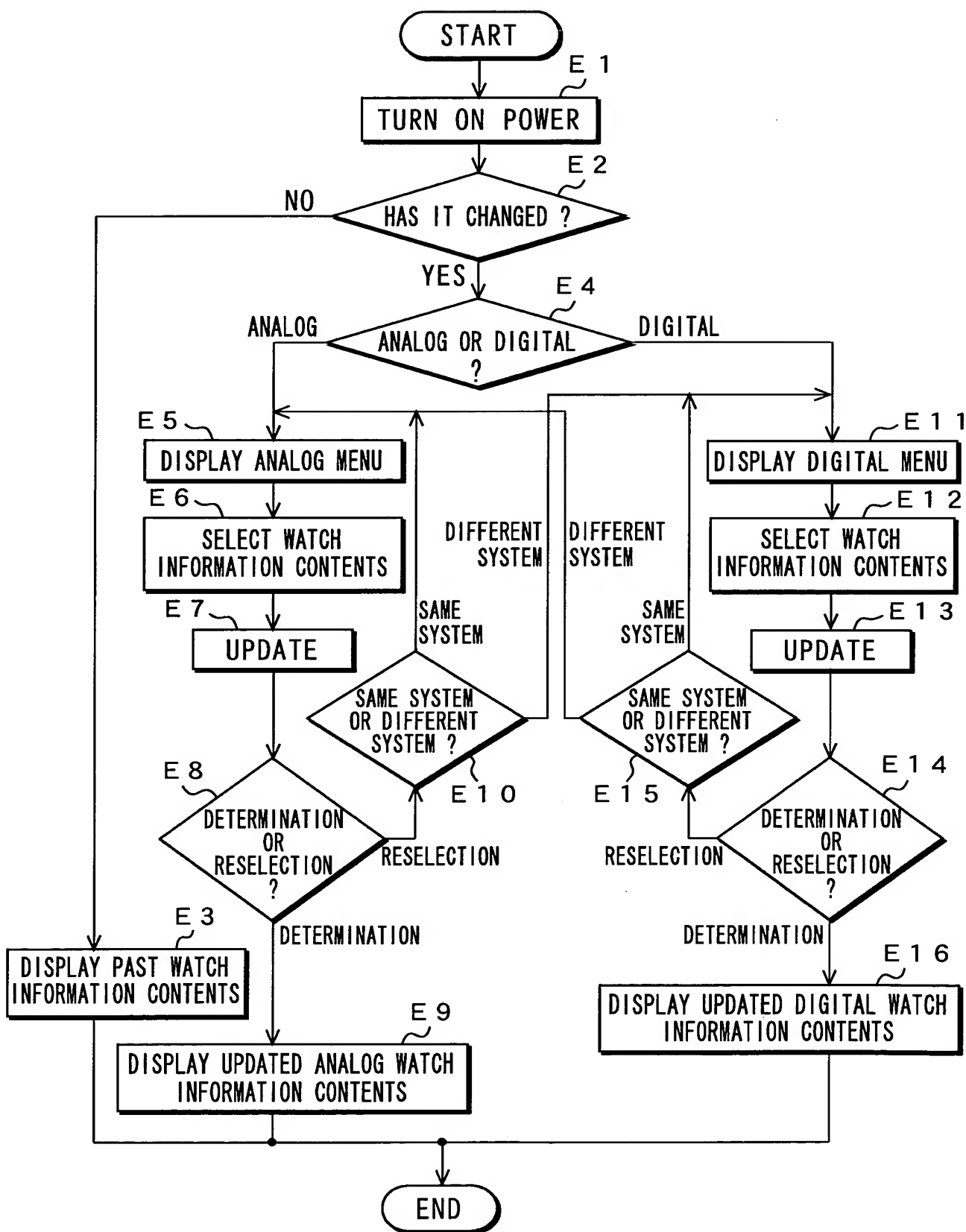


FIG. 13
CONFIGURATION OF SOFTWARE WATCH SYSTEM 102
ACCORDING TO THE SECOND EXAMPLE

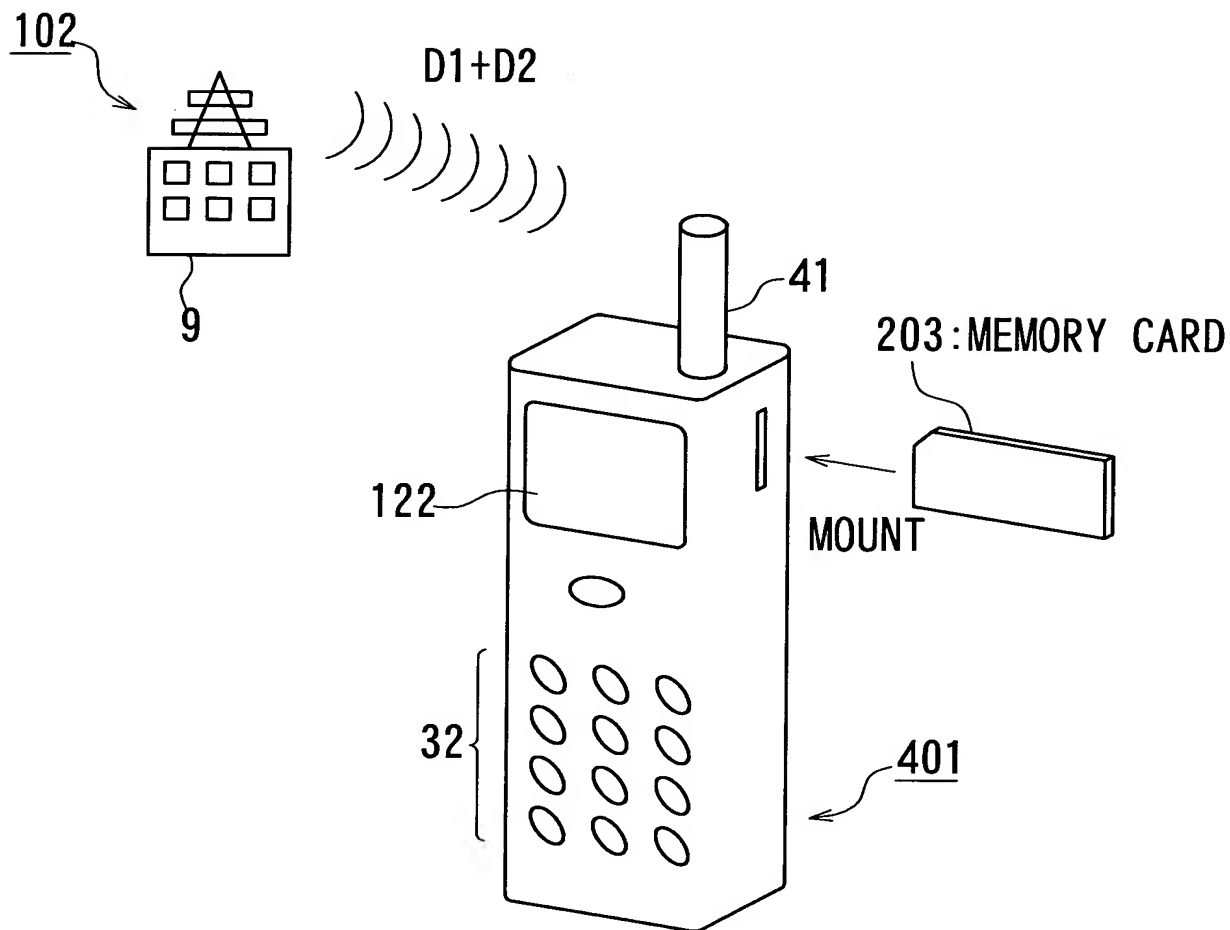


FIG. 14 DATA CONFIGURATION OF MEMORY CARD 203

20

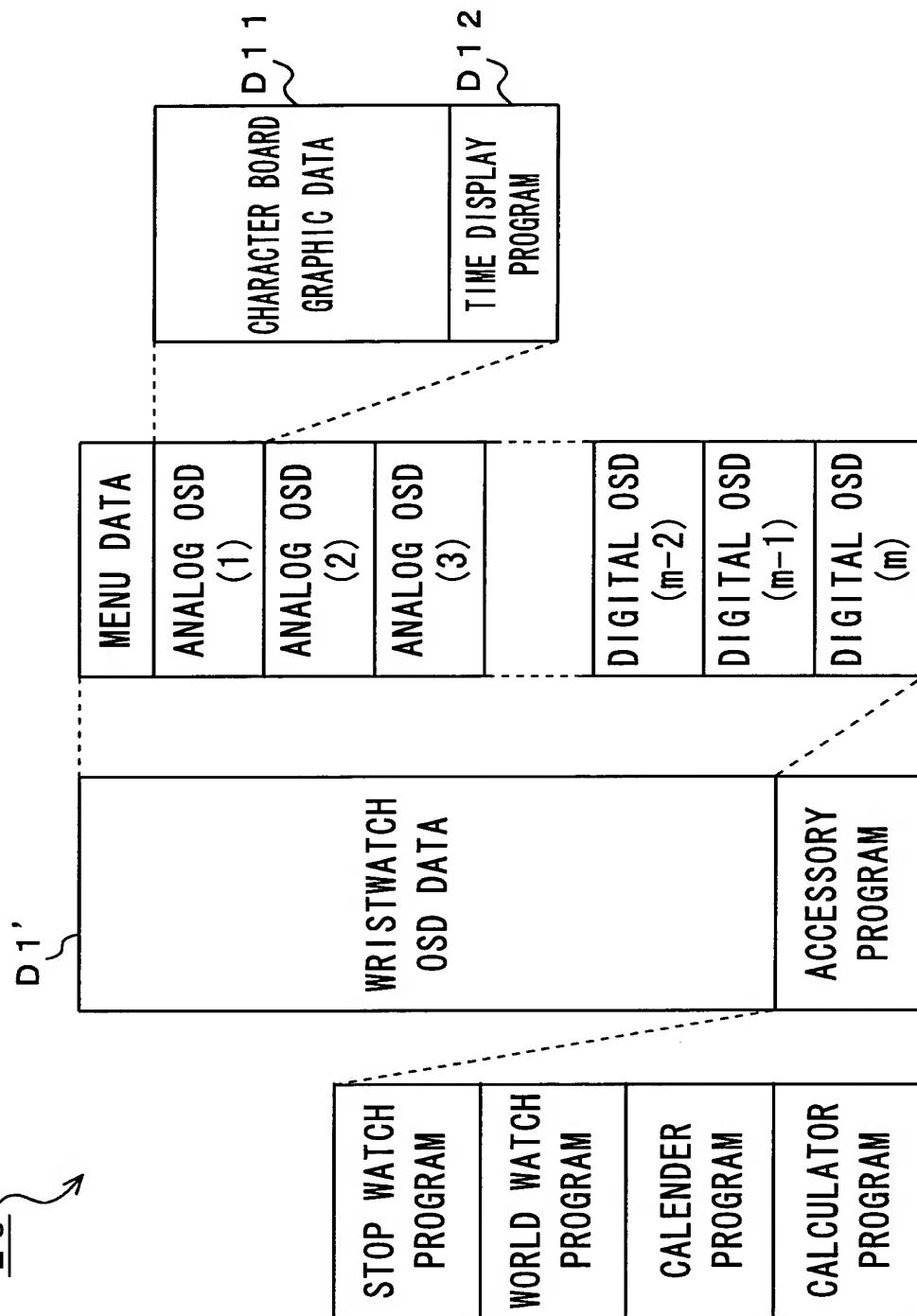


FIG. 15
 INTERNAL CONFIGURATION OF HAND HELD TELEPHONE SET 401

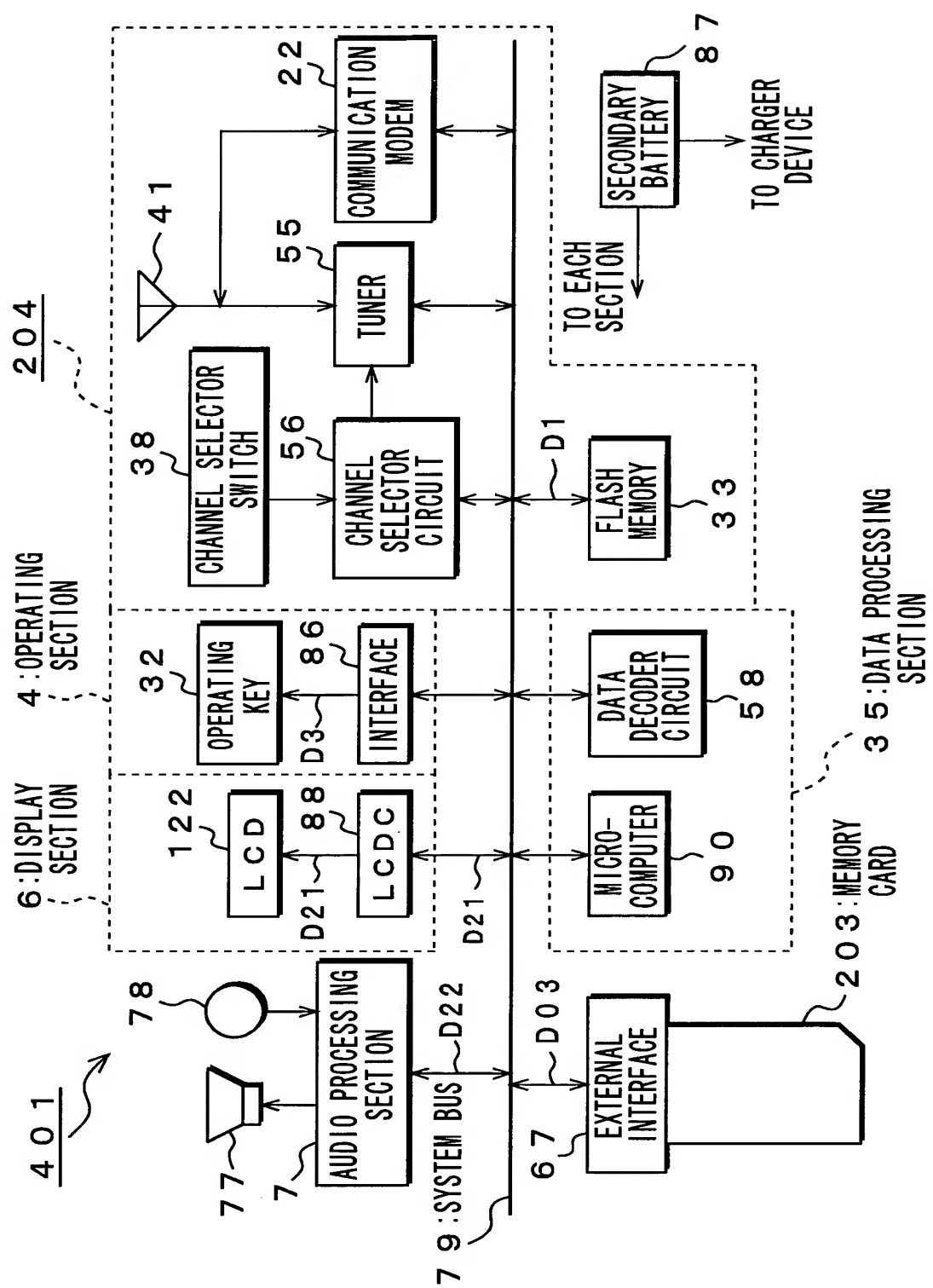
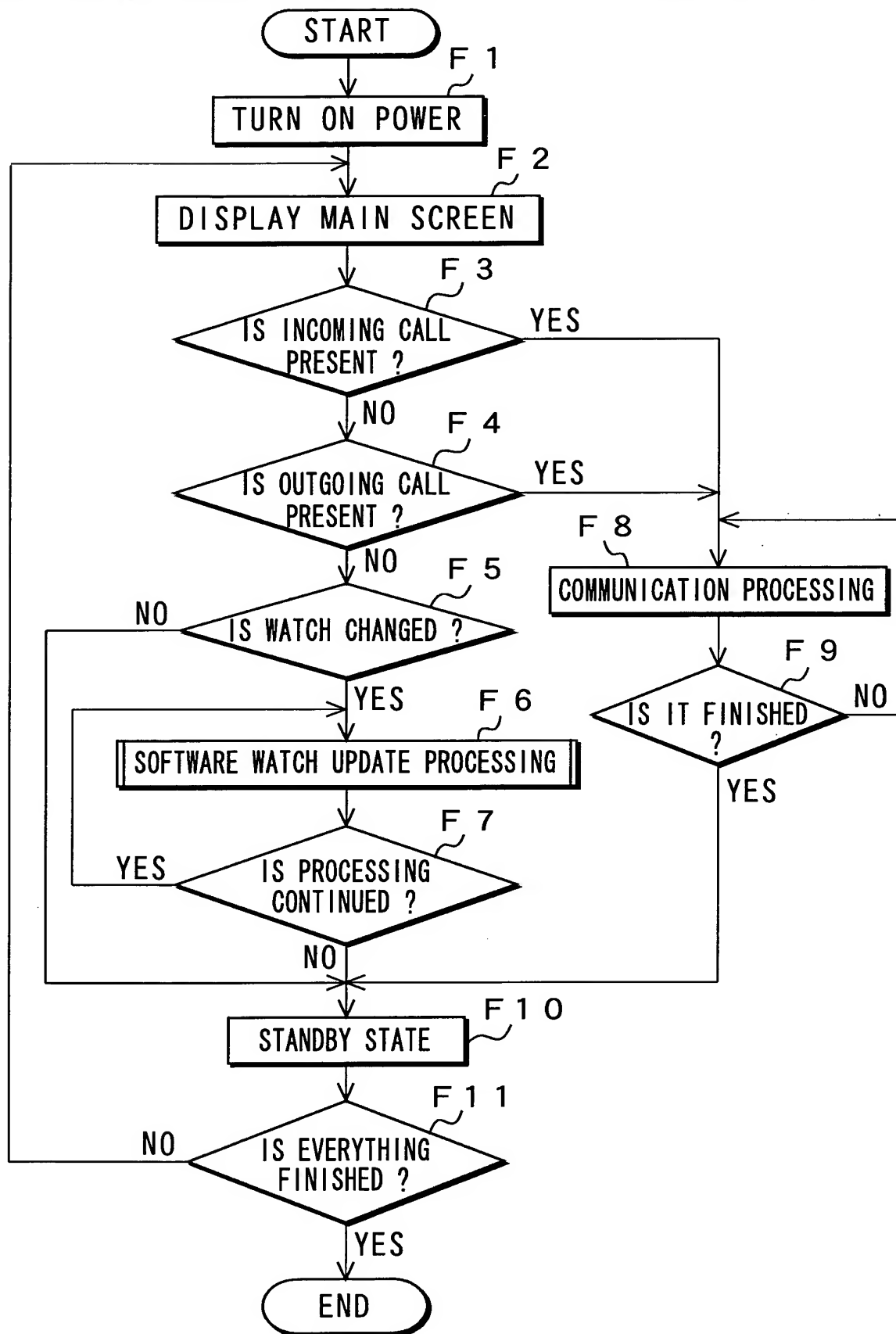




FIG. 16
PROCESSING EXAMPLE OF HAND HELD TELEPHONE SET 401



F I G. 1 7
 CONFIGURATION OF HAND HELD TERMINAL DEVICE 14'

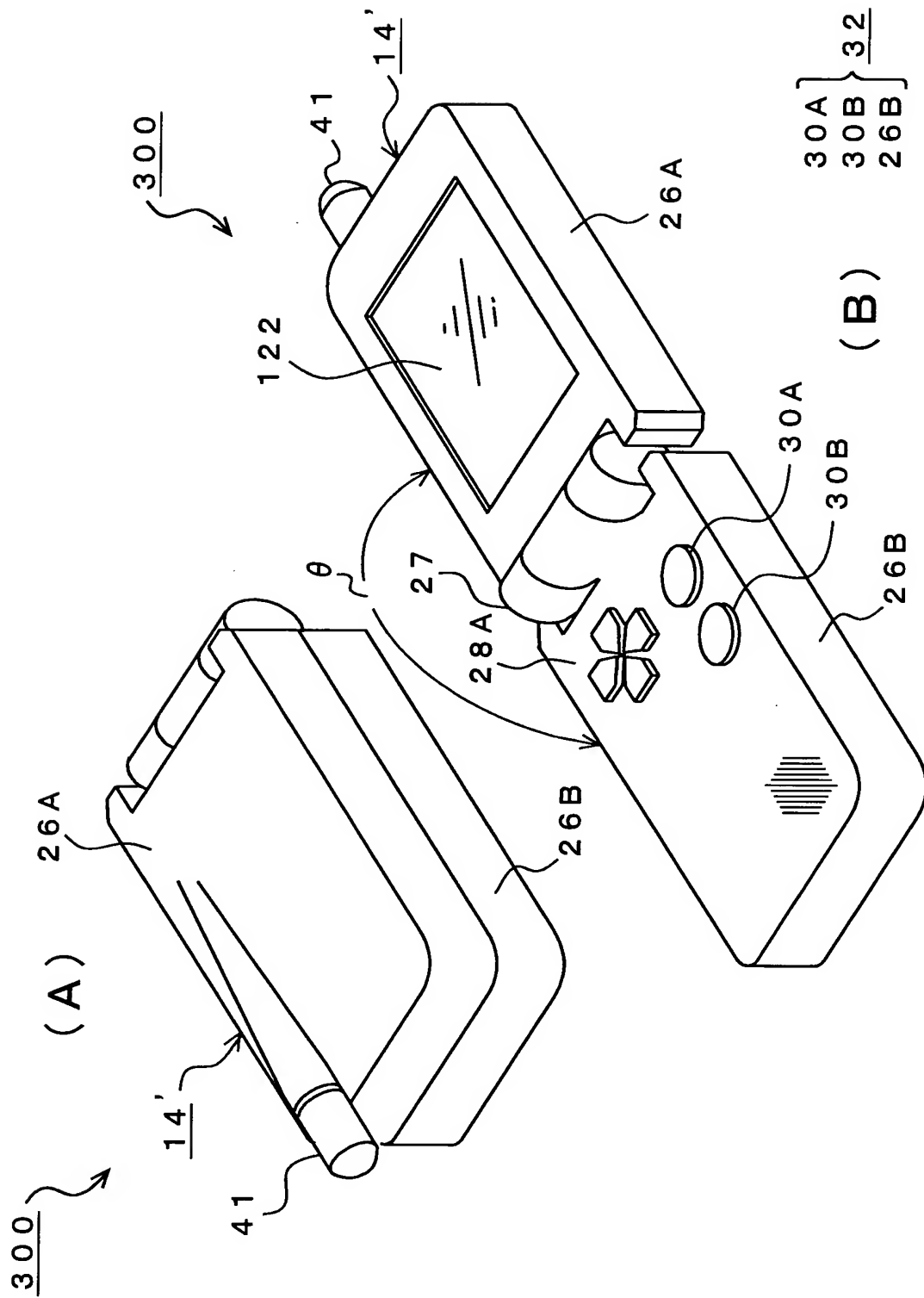


FIG. 18
HANDLING EXAMPLE OF HAND HELD TERMINAL DEVICE 14'

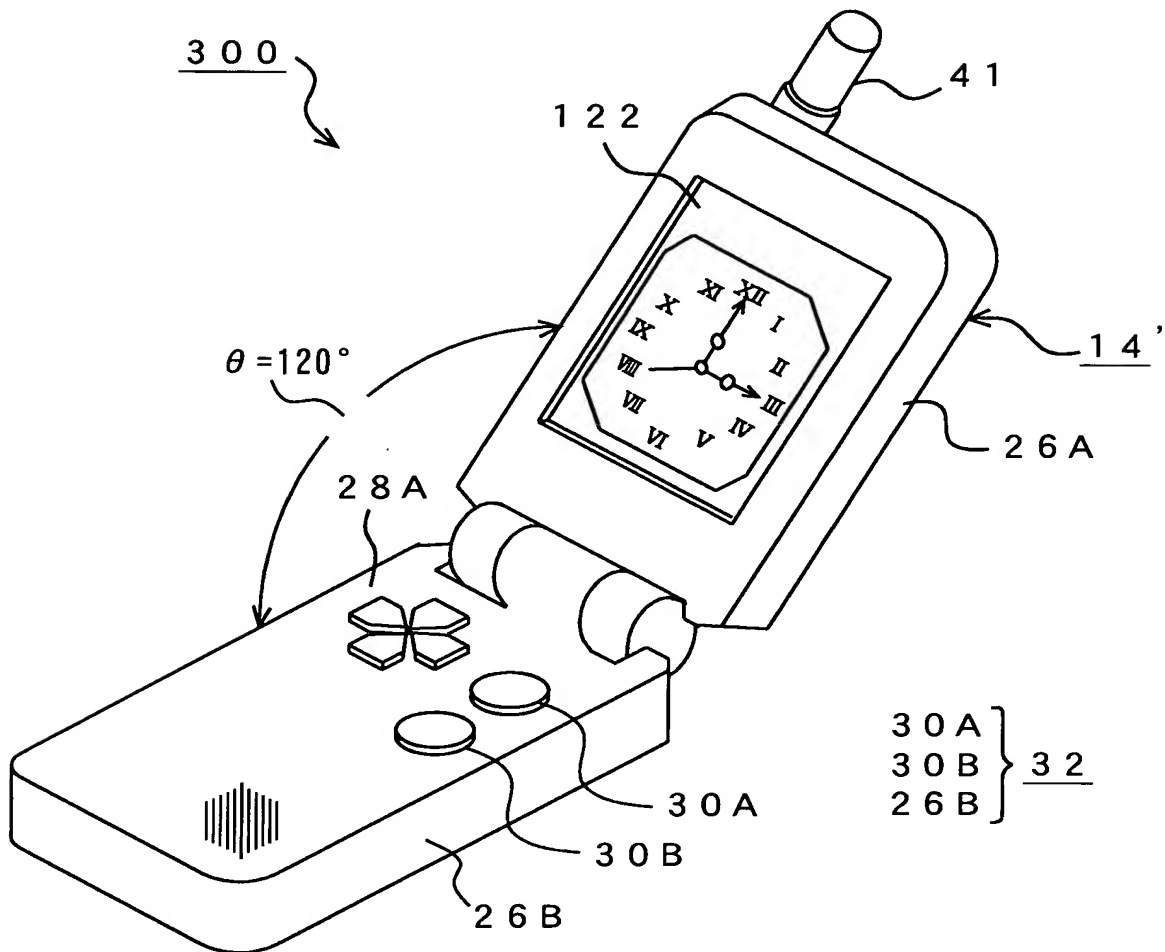


FIG. 19
CONNECTION CONFIGURATION OF HAND HELD TELEPHONE
TERMINAL DEVICES 14A AND 14B

